# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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## Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-179 *11 September 1991*

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Syrian Minister Arrives for Arab League Session

*NC1009191591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit which will last several days. During his visit, he will attend the meetings of the 96th session of Arab League Council, scheduled to open at the foreign ministers' level in Cairo this evening.

Al-Shar' gave a statement after his arrival and stressed the importance of coordination and consultation among the Arab foreign ministers, saying that consultation will make it much easier for us to overcome the current difficulties facing the Arab region. He added that he believes the recent developments in the Soviet Union will not affect the Mideast peace process or the convening of the peace conference.

Al-Shar' pointed out that the timing of the Damascus Declaration's implementation will be discussed at a meeting which will convene soon among the countries that signed this declaration.

Answering a question on the security agreement between Kuwait and the United States, al-Shar' said that Iraq is primarily to blame for the Arabs' current difficulties and added that any negative results of the Gulf crisis must be borne by the Iraqi regime. He stressed the importance of rebuilding Arab solidarity on strong and realistic foundations so that the Arab nation's security needs can be met. He noted that Syria is ready to make its sincere contribution to strengthening the Arab League's capacity for shouldering its responsibilities in the upcoming phase.

### 96th Session of Arab League Council Begins 10 Sep

#### 'Abd-al-Majid Speaks at Opening

*NC1009200991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid opened the Arab League Council's 96th session this evening. He made a speech in which he stressed the need to take effective and determined action to confront the challenges currently facing Arab national security, to arrange the Arab order, and to strengthen Arab capabilities.

'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that the Gulf crisis and its numerous repercussions seriously affected Arab relations, Arab action, and Arab establishments. He highlighted several points that might constitute a general framework for achieving Arab reconciliation, most importantly: finding practical formulas to prevent the reoccurrence of the events of August 1990, examining the destruction stemming from the Gulf war and taking action to contain it, complying with the provisions of international and Arab charters and of international legitimacy, and exerting serious efforts to rebuild confidence among the Arab countries.

'Abd-al-Majid emphasized the Arab League's role in establishing a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He welcomed Arab participation as observers at the Middle East peace conference. He announced that the Iraqi and Kuwaiti Governments pproved the Arab League's efforts to settle the issue of the Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq as quickly as possible within an Arab framework. He stressed that the Arab League will do all it can at every level to secure the Iraqi people's vital needs as long as they remain committed to implementing all Security Council resolutions.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, addressed the session in Kuwait's capacity as chairman of the previous session. He stressed the need for the Iraqi Government to adhere to UN resolutions so security and stability can be maintained in the region. He said that the Iraqi Government continues to persist in stalling on the issue of demarcating the borders between Iraq and Kuwait on the basis of the 1932 and 1963 agreements. He noted the recent incidents on Bubiyan Island. He said that we must discuss what has befallen joint Arab action and the need for serious efforts to strengthen it according to pan-Arab principles. He praised the Arab League secretary general's efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and restore Arab solidarity. He said that Kuwait expects the Arab League secretary general to make additional efforts to end the Kuwaiti people's suffering stemming from the Iraqi aggression. He stressed that Kuwait is closely following the efforts being undertaken to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and to arrive at a just solution for the Palestinian issue. He called on the international community to pressure Israel to respond to these efforts.

Faris Buwayz, Lebanese foreign minister and chairman of the Arab League's new session, made a speech. He emphasized that the session is being held at a very delicate phase of Arab action that is witnessing the crystallization of a new international system. He said that we look with satisfaction to the day when the Middle East region will become free of weapons of mass destruction.

He noted that the Arab countries' position on the Gulf crisis was characterized by a great deal of courage and respect for legal principles and pointed out that this position is a model for addressing other international issues, particularly the peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He emphasized that there will be no security or stability in the region as long as Israel continues to occupy southern Lebanon and stressed the need to apply the UN resolutions that call for Israel to withdraw from the south immediately. Concluding his speech, he said that Lebanon hopes that the Arabs will support its reconstruction.

Kuwait handed over the chairmanship of the session to Lebanon, and the inaugural session was adjourned. Closed sessions are scheduled to begin tomorrow to discuss the issues on the Arab League's agenda.

### Buwayz Speaks; Israeli Reporters Barred

*NC1109071191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz yesterday opened the 96th session of the Arab League Council in Cairo. Delivering Lebanon's speech, Buwayz said: Our attendance of the peace conference does not mean linking the entire Lebanese issue to resolving the Middle East problem. The Middle East problem is a completely separate subject that should be resolved in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Sources of the Lebanese delegation disclosed that Minister Buwayz, acting in his capacity as chairman of the current session, asked Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to bar Israeli reporters accredited in Egypt from entering the Arab League Headquarters to cover the conference. The measure will remain in force for the duration of the conference.

### Kuwait Protests Iraqi Actions

*LD1009222691 London KUNA in Arabic 1754 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Sep (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed here today that the Iraqi regime is still procrastinating with regard to prisoners of war and making the borders with Kuwait official. He believes that what Bubyan Island underwent recently was the most significant proof of Iraq's hostile intentions. This came in Shaykh Salim's speech at the proceedings of the 96th session of the Arab League Council, which started here tonight.

### Iraqi Foreign Minister Speaks

*JN1109102891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn refuted the allegations and lies of the foreign minister of the Kuwaiti regime on the so-called issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing people in Iraq, as well as on other issues.

Addressing the opening session of the 96th Arab League, which began in Cairo last night, the foreign minister described the procrastination of the Kuwaiti authorities for repatriating their citizens in Iraq and the attempts to misrepresent Iraqi cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

The foreign minister pointed out that the representatives of the Kuwaiti regime are accustomed to distorting facts and telling lies about Iraq as part of their aggressive scheme to perpetuate the unjust economic blockade on the Iraqi peple and peddle the coming chapters represented by consolidating the presence of hateful foreigners on Arab territory.

He added that the Kuwaiti regime is trying to give Arab and world public opinion the impression that Iraq is still keeping large numbers of Kuwaiti prisoners and is constantly seeking to obstruct their return to Kuwait.

The foreign minister said that the Kuwaiti authorities bear full responsibility for the delay because of their failure to cooperate with the ICRC and their misrepresentation of facts, using this subject for dishonest political and propagandistic purposes.

The foreign minister emphasized that the dimensions of the deliberate Kuwaiti deception, as well as other issues, have been totally exposed, just as the Bubiyan lie was exposed by the UN secretary general's report, which confirmed that the information cited by the Government of Kuwait was untrue.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn ridiculed the Kuwaiti foreign minister's claims on Arab solidarity, saying that anyone who brags about Arab solidarity and destiny must not cling to foreigners, and that if he has this degree of fear, then he should choose some Arab armies for protection instead of turning Kuwait into a base for foreigners.

He added that anyone who claims concern for Arab solidarity and fear for the Arab nation would not mount an unjust campaign against the sons of Arabism, the Palestinian people who live in Kuwait, imprison them to bear the cruelest kinds of torture, and displace and deport them.

## Foreign Ministers' Comments After Session

### Egypt's Musa on Gulf, Iran

*NC1009212391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2006 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has strongly denied that any consultations are being conducted on holding a five-party meeting among the countries directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict, saying that no arrangements have been made to hold such a meeting.

Musa gave a statement following the Arab League Ministerial Council's meeting this evening and said that there are no inter-Arab differences over the Arab position on the Palestinian issue, the land-for-peace principle, or the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 242. He asserted that there is unanimity among the Arabs on these issues and that bilateral coordination is taking place on some of the steps connected with the peace negotiations.

He pointed out that differences do exist on the issue of Gulf security; however, he criticized the contradictory Iranian statements, some of which have been directed

particularly against Egypt. He said that this is an error on the part of some Iranian officials, who are using language that reveals certain intentions they have been hiding. He pointed out that these Iranian officials should have been aware of the importance of four points: international developments, regional developments, the Arab stand, and the fact that the peace process requires Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories.

'Amr Musa added that Iran should not concern itself with what Egypt does or what is happening in the Arab world, because it is not part of the Arab world; rather, it is simply a neighboring country.

'Amr Musa said that Egypt in the past had been ready to consult with Iran. He added: We were hoping that they would develop their outlook in order to keep up with the world's growing tendency toward dialogue and understanding—not raise slogans as they did in their recent statements.

In a warning tone, the foreign minister told Iran: "If you reconsider, we will reconsider."

'Amr Musa expressed the hope that Israel will not obstruct the peace process that stands to benefit all parties, including Israel itself. He said that, no one will accept the current situation, which involves building settlements and attempting to impose a fait accompli, no matter how long it lasts.

On his recent visit to the Hague and his talks with EC officials, Musa said that on more than one occasion the EC has emphasized four basic principles in its dealings with the Middle East issue: the peace process, the land-for-peace principle, a peace conference, and the facts of the Palestinian presence and the Israeli presence and the need to embark on a negotiating process to resolve the Palestinian issue on the basis of Resolution 242, that is, land for peace.

'Amr Musa added that, during his visit to the Netherlands yesterday, he discussed enhancing cooperation and consultation between Egypt and the EC. He added that he also discussed several issues related to the peace process, as well as Egyptian-EC relations and the ties between Egypt and the Netherlands.

### Syria's al-Shar' on Palestinians

*NC1009212891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has asserted that Syria has not coordinated with the Palestinians on the Middle East peace process. He pointed out that there are obstacles on the way to the peace conference which must be removed.

In a statement following the Arab League Ministerial Council's closed session this evening, Faruq al-Shar' said [words indistinct] the five-party meeting, which was to include Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO to coordinate positions on the current peace efforts, and he referred to the current tension in the relations between some of these countries.

On another issue, the Syrian foreign minister said that the security agreement between Kuwait and the United States does not mean that there will be a U.S. military presence in Kuwait.

### Iraqi Delegate's Views

*NC1109052391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has urged the league to form a fact-finding committee to examine the current situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

In a statement to reporters following the Arab League's meeting this evening, Najm said Iraq is willing to be cooperative in light of its commitment to the UN resolutions.

He added that Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn, in his speech to the Arab League Ministerial Council's closed session this evening, spoke of the immense hardship faced by the Iraqi people as a result of the economic blockade. He also praised Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid for his efforts to ease the Iraqi people's suffering.

Sources said it was agreed to submit the issue of the Iraqi people's hardship to the Arab League Council for discussion, but only in the context of being a consequence of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

### Arab League Ministerial Council 11 Sep Session

*NC1109090891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Ministerial Council began its meetings this morning under the chairmanship of Faris Buwayz, Lebanese foreign minister and chairman of the 96th session of the council. The meeting will cover the items on the agenda.

The political, economic, legal, financial, and administrative committees also have started their meetings in the Arab League Secretariat headquarters to discuss the issues referred to them by the council.

Arab foreign ministers began their meetings yesterday.

### 5-Way Meeting Before Peace Talks

*NC1109120491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that Egypt and Saudi Arabia have presented a proposal to the Arab League Council calling for the Arab League secretary general to hold consultations with the five countries concerned with the Middle East crisis—Egypt, Syria,

Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon—in order to formulate a joint position before the peace conference scheduled for October.

MENA has learned that the council has approved the proposal and referred it to the drafting committee, which currently is meeting to prepare a resolution addressing the Arab position on the Palestinian problem and the need to coordinate the positions of the concerned parties before the peace conference is held.

### Resolution on Conflict Adopted

*NC1109140491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Ministerial Council's morning session ended at 1400 today and is scheduled to hold its evening session at 1730 today.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the council had discussed and agreed upon 16 of the topics on its agenda and added that the drafting committee is now preparing a draft resolution on the Palestinian issue and the peace process.

He added that the council will debate the resolution in tonight's evening session, which may be the final session.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, said that the political committee has agreed on a resolution calling for coordination among the countries concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and noted that, in his view, this was the most important resolution.

Faris Buwayz, Lebanese foreign minister and chairman of the current session, said the council's evening session will discuss a number of outstanding points on its agenda.

He added that the council has adopted a specific resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict and coordination among the confrontation states and said that the league's secretariat will announce the text of the resolution at a later time.

## Sideline Meetings Held at Arab League Council

### Egypt's Musa Meets Jordan's al-Nusur

*NC1009130991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur, who currently is visiting Egypt. During the meeting they discussed Arab issues.

### Kuwaiti Officials Meet 'Abd-al-Majid

*LD1009154491 London KUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah met today with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in the presence of the Lebanese foreign minister, Faris Buwayz, and the Kuwaiti permanent delegate to the Arab League, ambassador 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Jay'an. After the meeting, Shaykh Salim told journalists that the talks dealt with the topics included in the agenda of the 96th session of the Ministerial Council, and with taking over the chairmanship of the session. He added that Kuwait's speech and the meetings of the session would cover the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners detained in the prisons of the Iraqi regime, and Iraqi prevarications in the implementation of the resolutions of international legality.

In reply to a question about the amendment of the Arab League Charter, Shaykh Salim stressed that Kuwait also had its own point of view regarding the amendment of the Charter, and would submit it at the appropriate time. He added that Kuwait had agreed on the creation of an Arab Court of Justice.

Regarding the claims made by the Iraqi regime on the hardship it is now facing as a result of the continuation of the economic blockade, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said that the blockade was the result of the implementation of the resolutions of the UN Security Council, and that the Arab League had no right to interfere in this matter. He added that the Iraqi people could get rid of the person responsible for this blockade.

He went on to say that the security agreement which Kuwait is going to sign with the United States was not incompatible with the Damascus Declaration to which the six Gulf Cooperation Council states, Egypt, and Syria belong, and which covers the security arrangements in the region.

### Iraqi Minister Meets Officials

*JN1009165391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1554 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn met with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur in Cairo today.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on items on the agenda of the Arab League Council meeting currently being held in Cairo.

The foreign minister also met with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the current Arab situation and topics on the council's agenda.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn arrived in Cairo yesterday to lead the Iraqi delegation at the Arab League Council meeting.

### Damascus Declaration Foreign Ministers Meet

*NC1009185191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The Foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries met at a working lunch hosted by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today. Musa said that the participants discussed the coordination of the eight countries' stands and ways of implementing the Damascus Declaration to achieve cooperation among these countries in various fields.

An official Foreign Ministry source said that the participants also discussed recent developments in the Arab region, ways to ensure security and stability in the Gulf, developments in the Palestinian issue, the possibility of mobilizing efforts to advance the peace process and convene the peace conference in October, and joint action on issues on the Arab League agenda related to the eight countries' interests.

### Nov Meeting Slated

*NC1009193891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries will meet in Cairo during the first week of November. The agency added that they will discuss taking practical measures to implement the Damascus Declaration's principles.

The signatories of the Damascus Declaration are Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

### Palestinians Want 'Coordinating Committee'

*PM1109103391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 91 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Arab Tour For 'Arafat After Palestine National Council Session"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Palestinian sources in Cairo that the PLO proposed to Egypt during Egyptian-Palestinian talks over recent weeks the formation of a permanent bilateral Egyptian-Palestinian coordination committee to discuss and coordinate the Egyptian and Palestinian positions on the issue of peace in the Middle East and to follow up bilateral Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

The sources said that the Palestinian proposal aims at developing PLO relations with Egypt, especially after the Gulf crisis events and the tension that blemished Egyptian-Palestinian relations, and trying to find a suitable formula to contain any future crisis in relations between Egypt and the PLO, prevent it from worsening, and place it in its bilateral framework between the two sides.

During bilateral talks with Egypt over recent weeks, the sources said, the Palestinian side emphasized the PLO's agreement to the Egyptian formulas proposed vis-a-vis Palestinian representation, which aim at bringing about a balance between Jordan and the PLO with regard to the formation of the joint delegation.

Meanwhile, and at the level of the Palestinian attempts to hold a quadripartite meeting in Cairo comprising Egypt, Jordan, the PLO, and Syria, Arab sources cited the existence of doubts about the four parties' convening that meeting on the sidelines of the new Arab League session in view of the nonsettlement of the problem of Palestinian representation pending the convening of the new Palestine National Council [PNC] session.

The sources pointed out that the new crisis which erupted between Egypt and Jordan as a result of the "White Paper" published recently in Jordan about the Gulf crisis will obstruct the convening of that meeting, especially as Cairo wishes to reduce Jordan's role in the peace conference talks because of its rejection of the other Arab parties' intervention in the Jordanian-Palestinian talks concerning the formation of the joint delegation.

The sources hinted that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is seeking to make an Arab tour at the end of the month and following the conclusion of the Palestine National Council Session to inform the leaders of these states of the council's decisions on Palestinian representation in the conference. [passage omitted]

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat on Peace; Removing 'Abbas Discussed

*JN1009181191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories entered its 47th month. On this occasion, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat addressed a message to the Palestinian people in which he stressed that there is no real hope in achieving peace in the Middle East without acknowledging the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination.

'Arafat also stressed the PLO's right to determine the composition of the Palestinian representation to the peace conference, without any external interference or Israeli conditions, because the Palestinians, who do not demand the impossible, want peace and not surrender, as he put it. Peace, he said, must be based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, and on a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

'Arafat urged the masses of the occupied territories to escalate their resistance against occupation because the intifadah, he said, will be present all the time and in all discussions during the Palestine National Council [PNC] session, scheduled to convene in Algiers on 23 September.

It seems that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat agreed to start a dialogue with the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] in preparation of participation by the PNSF's fronts in the PNC session. This was stated today by PNSF Chairman Khalid al-Fahum, who said that he was informed, by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, of Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] agreement to start the dialogue in Libya as soon as possible.

Apart from the crucial issues it will discuss when it convenes, the PNC will also study a proposal from the Palestinian leadership to remove Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, from the PLO Executive Committee following a recommendation made by a special committee that investigated the commando operation carried out by a unit from Abu-al-'Abbas' front on a Tel Aviv beach in May 1990.

Citing a Palestinian official, which it describes as a close aide of Yasir 'Arafat, AFP says the report made by the investigation committee finds Abu-al-'Abbas guilty of carrying out actions that threatened the PLO's interests and could have resulted in the death of innocent civilians.

### Further on Efforts To Expel 'Abbas

*NC1009175791 Paris AFP in English 1634 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[By Fouad Naim]

[Excerpt] Nicosia, Sept 10 (AFP)—The PLO wants to expel Abu-al-'Abbas, mastermind of an abortive anti-Israeli raid that Washington used as a pretext to freeze talks with the Palestinian leadership, a Palestinian source disclosed Tuesday.

A recommendation will be submitted to the Palestine National Council (PNC), or parliament-in-exile, to exclude Muhammad 'Abbas (Abu-al-'Abbas)—who also organized the seizure of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro—from the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee, he said.

The PNC is due to meet in Algiers on September 23.

But the source, who declined to be identified, said Abu-al-'Abbas' pro-Iraqi Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) could still retain its membership on the executive committee and that another figure could replace him, although such a decision was "premature."

Abu-al-'Abbas is the secretary general of the PLF.

Palestinian leaders are basing the expulsion proposal on a report from a special PLO commission of inquiry created by Chairman Yasir 'Arafat after a PLF commando unit launched an abortive seaborne landing on a beach in Tel Aviv in May 1990. The PLF is linked to the PLO.

Following the operation, 'Arafat said it was up to the PNC, which elected Abu-al-'Abbas, to discipline him and rejected a U.S. request to punish him.

The United States consequently suspended a dialogue it had begun with the PLO after 'Arafat on December 14, 1988 renounced terrorism and recognized the right of Israel to exist.

Abu-al-'Abbas' commandos also organized the seizure of the Achille Lauro cruise liner in October 1985 in the eastern Mediterranean during which an American Jewish paraplegic passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, was murdered. [passage omitted]

### PLF Denies 'Abbas Investigation

*NC1109131191 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Nicosia, Sept 11 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) on Wednesday denied that the PLO had appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the role of its leader, Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], in an abortive anti-Israeli raid last year.

The attempt by PLF commandos to land on a beach near Tel Aviv in May 1990, and the PLO's failure to discipline Abu-al-'Abbas, prompted the United States to suspend a dialogue it had begun with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The PLO Executive Committee "has not asked anyone to investigate the naval operation ... or any other military operation," PLF deputy secretary 'Ali Ishaq said.

A Palestinian source on Tuesday told AFP that such a committee had been appointed by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and that it had recommended that Abu-al-'Abbas be expelled from the executive committee, its decision-making body.

The source said the recommendation would be made later this month to the Palestine National Council (PNC), or parliament-in-exile, which is scheduled to meet in Algeria on September 23.

Abu-al-'Abbas, whose real name is Muhammad 'Abbas, masterminded the abortive landing and organised the seizure of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro in October 1985 during which an American Jewish paraplegic passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, was murdered.

The United States suspended a dialogue it had begun with the PLO in December 1988 after 'Arafat refused to publicly denounce the seaborne landing attempt and expel Abu-al-'Abbas from the Executive Committee.

Ishaq vowed that the "Palestinian military struggle would continue" and said the source of the report was a "traitor who had capitulated to the will of the United States and the West."

### Inter-Group Talks Failure Possibly Delays PNC

*PM1009153591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 91 p 1*

[Zaki Shihab report: "'Arafat's Meeting With Hamas Delegation in Khartoum Failed"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The meetings held the day before yesterday in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a delegation representing Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] under Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah did not achieve any progress likely to pave the way for for Hamas to join the Palestine National Council [PNC]. This was because the Hamas delegation insisted on the movement's previous position on the need for it to have 40-percent representation in the PNC.

And no formula was reached to prepare for holding a meeting between a PLO delegation and a number of Damascus-based organizations, despite the constant telephone contacts and messages between these groups' representative, who has arrived in the Libyan capital, and the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

Palestinian sources say that Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Damascus-based Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] [PFLP]—General Command, arrived in Tripoli a few days ago with a view to completing consultations after an earlier action plan, drawn up to hold a dialogue in Sanaa early in the month, failed. This plan failed because of former PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum's failure to receive a reply to the message he had sent to Yasir 'Arafat, requesting clarification of the PLO's position on a number of issues before the groups on whose behalf Al-Fahum speaks could announce any intention of participation in the PNC session now in preparation.

The results of these meetings—both those held in Khartoum between the Hamas delegation and 'Arafat and those held at the same time with the Damascus-based Palestinian groups—are expected to be given much attention during the coming hours. This is in addition to fixing a date for the PNC session, settling the PNC membership, and discussing the proposed names.

Leading Palestinian sources emphasize that no new meeting has been held with Naji and that the achievement of any progress at the level of the dialogue with the other groups outside the PLO depends on the outcome of the PLO Executive Committee meetings, which started last night.

Palestinian sources do not rule out the reconsideration of the question of convening a PNC session if a number of issues, first and foremost the attendance of organizations and movements like Hamas, al-Sa'iqah, and the PFLP-General Command, are not resolved. Independent Palestinian figures and group leaders are exerting great efforts to persuade the parties concerned to reach acceptable solutions on the eve of the call for convening the peace conference. And other meetings are expected to be held between the PLO and the Movement a few days after the Executive Committee and PLC leadership meetings in Tunis are concluded.

### Hamas on Peace Conference, PNC Meeting

*NC1009145291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1341 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Sep (MENA)—The Palestinian Hamas Movement reiterated its rejection of the Middle East peace conference scheduled for October. Hamas has also refused to participate in the Palestine National Council's [PNC] meetings to be held in Algiers during the month of September.

Dr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Hamas Movement, held a news conference in Khartoum today in which he said that Hamas set conditions for its participation in the PNC meetings, specifically that all the sons of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories must be allowed to participate in the PNC's formation through free elections. Dr. Ghawshah added that, if elections cannot be held, Hamas members must make up 40 percent of the PNC.

It should be recalled that the PLO and Hamas held contacts in Amman and Khartoum so that Hamas would participate in the PNC meetings. As is known, Hamas pursues an Islamic policy and is playing an active role in the intifadah in the occupied territories.

### PLO Urges UN Intervention Regarding PNC

*LD1009205691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Palestine's representative to the United Nations has sent a memorandum to each of the secretary-general of the UN and the president of the Security Council asking for their intervention, and that of the United Nations, with Israel in order to ease the exit of the members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] from the occupied territories to Algeria to attend the forthcoming session of the Council, and also to facilitate their return to the occupied Palestinian territories afterward.

### Representative Previews National Council Meeting

*LD0709102491 Hamburg DPA in German 0530 GMT 7 Sep 91*

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The PLO representative in Bonn, Abdullah al-Franji, expects a renewal of the PLO in view of the political transformations in the world. The first consequences could emerge at the meeting of the Palestinian National Council, to be convened in Algiers on 20 September.

Al-Franji this weekend told DPA that the National Council will discuss the new situation and its consequences for the Palestinian issue and make relevant decisions. This would also include giving the Palestinians from the occupied territories a greater say in the PLO. Al-Franji said that even now discussions about a renewal were taking place in all PLO organizations.

"We must tackle the process and bring progress to the democratization of the PLO so that we can meet the new challenges", he said. An important goal for the Palestinians was stronger European inclusion in the Middle East peace process. Al-Franji described the recent meeting between United States Secretary of State James Baker and Palestinian representatives in the occupied territories as "a good start," but not yet sufficient for a new fruitful dialogue.

The PLO representative expects the planned Middle East conference to come into being. A minimum demand by the PLO was to appoint its delegation itself. Advances could perhaps be expected during Baker's new Middle East trip. The National Council—the Palestinians' parliament in exile—may postpone its meeting by a few days in expectaion of the results of this new talk.

### 'Informed Sources': PLO Offices Move to Amman

*JN0809182691 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 Aug 91 pp 1, 15*

[Excerpt] AL-QUDS learned that the political leadership of the PLO will gradually move from Tunis to Amman.

Informed sources said improved PLO-Jordanian relations and political moves toward a solution to the Middle East conflict are the reasons for this planned transfer.

The sources explained that Tunisia, which has been hosting the PLO since it left Lebanon in 1982, has no complaints about the continued presence of the PLO in Tunisia.

According to the sources, the transfer of the PLO offices is considered pressing because of the position of the Jordanian Government, which intends to participate in the October conference on Middle East peace whether the Palestinians attend or not. [passage omitted]

### 'Sources'—No Reason To Transfer

*JN0809194091 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 5 Sep 91 pp 1, 11*

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources commented on media reports about the transfer of PLO offices from Tunis to Amman. They said that with the growing importance of the Jordanian arena, there is a growing need for strengthening Palestinian offices in Jordan.

The sources added that there is no reason or cause to transfer all offices from Tunis to Amman.

### PNC's al-Hasan Welcomes Curb on Israeli Loans

*PM1009152591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 91 p 4*

[Unattributed report: "Khalid al-Hasan: Bush Proposal Positive; Washington Should Show Interest In Palestinian Security"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the Palestine National Council's Foreign Relations Committee and member of the Fatah Central Committee, has described U.S. President George Bush's call on Congress to postpone for four months the discussion of Israel's request for loan guarantees as "positive" and "showing again to what extent the Israelis are now indebted to the United States," noting that U.S. interests in the Middle East are "very vast." He expressed the hope that "this step in the face of Israeli greed will be coupled with a positive and sincere political and humanitarian move toward the Palestinians."

He added that U.S. diplomatic planning for the Middle East should focus on interest in the security and safety of the Palestinians and not just in Israel's security. That, he said, should be the starting point in U.S. planning because the Palestinian question is the core of the Middle East question.

He pointed out that U.S. interests in the Middle East "are very vast and not just confined to the peace process." He added that "the U.S. share is great and Israel's need for U.S. aid is even greater." The various issues, he said, should be viewed according to their scale and their priority.

He saw Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's statement that Israel was ready to live on bread and salt but would not give in to U.S. pressures as an "astonishing phenomenon." He also found it strange that Levi advised Knesset members not to quote him in their meetings with their constituents "for fear of reaction, particularly in view of the strategic nature of U.S.-Israeli relations."

These developments, he said, prove that the no peace, no war situation cannot continue, because it is a byproduct of the Cold War, which is over.

He described Bush's proposal as "positive" and said he hoped "Bush would insist on it."

### PLO Adviser Welcomes U.S. Use of 'Aid Sword'

*PM1009154591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 91 p 4*

['Ali Nun report: "Sha'th Tells AL-HAYAH: Bush's Postponement of Loan Guarantees Is a Serious Indication"]

[Excerpts] London—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that he met twice with Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. He told AL-HAYAH yesterday that

one of the two meetings was held in Geneva, where they were both attending an international conference.

In reply to a question about President George Bush's statement on postponement for 120 days of the discussion of Israel's request for loan guarantees, he said that this "was the first real indication of U.S. seriousness in pursuing the peace process, especially if we bear in mind that in the past the U.S. policy was one of flooding Israel with aid and support on the pretext of encouraging it to join the peace process and respond to legitimate UN reesolutions."

He added: "We always maintained that that would only lead to more intransigence by (Israeli Prime Minister) Shamir and his government. [passage omitted]

"We always told them: Link your financing of Israel to the latter's response to international legitimacy and its suspension of settlements. That would be a sign that you are serious."

He continued: "That is why I believe that this step is an indication of the U.S. attitude in the next phase." [passage omitted]

Sha'th also said: "My own personal interpretation is that the U.S. Administration wants to continue to keep the aid sword hanging over them, to ensure the start and progress of the peace process. The U.S. reference to the settlements indicates that the United States might use pressure to obtain a commitment from Israel to restrict settlement in the occupied territories."

He added: "We would be overoptimistic, however, if we assumed that the United States would use that method in requesting a halt to settlement. That is what we have asked of the U.S. Administration. Our people cannot remain patient as a lengthy peace process continues while settlement also continues, because that would carry with it the threat of all the territories' being swallowed up before any result is achieved."

Asked if he saw U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's forthcoming meeting with the Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem as evidence of a change in Washington's political views, Sha'th replied: "We have always requested that the meetings be held in East Jerusalem and sought an acceptable draft of a guarantee document spelling out the U.S. position on Resolution 242 and its implementation and the issue of East Jerusalem, maintaining that it has not been annexed and is negotiable. We want that in writing in a document or a message from Washington to ensure that the United States would abide by it if we reached a deadlock at any time."

He described Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Jordan as "very positive and part of the Jordanian-Palestinian understanding which is very necessary in the preparation for any future stance on the peace efforts." He added, however, that no agreement was concluded as to whether theirs would be a joint delegation and what shape it would take.

On the recent meeting between 'Arafat and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Banghazi, he said that the talks were very positive, with some progress achieved regarding the need for coordination among the Arab states that will participate in the peace process. He added that 'Arafat's meeting with President Husni Mubarak was also positive.

### Sha'th on U.S. 'Step in the Right Direction'

*LD1009205191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] About 30 Palestinian personalities and PLO representatives have welcomed, in a meeting they held in London, the U.S. Government decision to suspend the granting of loan guarantees to Israel. Brother Nabil Sha'th said that this decision constitutes a step in the right direction and proves the Americans' seriousness.

During the meeting of the past two days, the question of Palestinian representation in the peace conference was discussed, but without any decision being taken. One of the participants said that the matter was nothing more than an exchange of views among Palestinians from different parts of the world.

### Paper Criticizes Kuwait for Agreement With U.S.

*PM1009124591 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Sep 91 p 11*

[Editorial: "Kuwait's Reassurance Does Not Come From U.S. Bases"]

[Text] The only conclusion the wise government of Kuwait has been able to draw from the Iraqi forces' invasion of its territory is that security can only be established and guaranteed through a security "treaty" with the United States.

The United States is known to be thousands of miles away from Kuwaiti territory with no common land borders, no common waters, and no social or demographic interaction between the two.

So, getting away from diplomatic terms, the matter is nothing more than a request for protection, and protection by a distant state can only be provided through permanent bases for that state on land or in territorial waters.

That is the gist of the so-called "Defense Cooperation Agreement" approved the day before yesterday by the Kuwaiti cabinet in an extraordinary session chaired by Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

That also seems to be the reason why the Amir of Kuwait flew out three days ago for a meeting with the Saudi monarch on a lightning and unexpected visit.

Of course, we do not know what the Saudi officials told the Amir of Kuwait when he raised the issue of the

security "treaty" with them. However, the fact that Saudi Arabia itself had invited more than half a million soldiers to be deployed on its territory and from there to launch their campaign against Iraq leaves no room for speculation.

These, regrettably, are mentalities which found it easy to invite, not to say hire, foreign forces to defend them and their interests against a real or alleged threat. What is important is not the opinion of Kuwait's partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] but the opinion of the other states which, after the savage U.S. military machine destroyed Iraq's military and civilian capabilities, hurriedly convened a meeting in Damascus attended by, in addition to the six GCC states, Syria and Egypt, resulting in a short-lived pact to fill the security vacuum in the Gulf after the withdrawal of foreign troops.

The views of Egypt and Syria are what matters above all in this connection, not the views of the Gulf states which will soon follow Kuwait's example if the security situation continues to be fluid there.

If we acknowledged the so-called "Damascus Declaration" file, we would find that neither Egypt nor Syria seems to have been able to switch off the Gulf's security "alarm," especially Kuwait's. We do not believe that either would agree to the establishment of permanent U.S. military bases on any Arab territory. Instead of replacing foreign forces with Arab forces, instead of Kuwait's concluding, in particular, that it is an integral part of the Arab world and an eternal neighbor of Iraq, and instead of acting on the basis of these geographical grounds irrespective of the political system, Kuwait has done the opposite and has allowed the security nightmare to govern every aspect of its policy, leaving the element of revenge loose without any consideration for the present or the future.

Kuwait should have drawn different conclusions. It is not only with U.S. forces that Kuwait can have reassurance. Forces may be able to defeat an invasion or repulse an attack but they cannot ward off internal dangers or prevent acts of revenge. The Kuwaiti political administration should have shown tolerance and should have turned a new page at home and abroad instead of insisting on alienating itself from the Arab fold and instead of wreaking vengeance on unarmed Palestinians, who have nowhere to go having spent their lives serving Kuwait.

Kuwait knows more than anyone else that it is under no real threat. If Iraq was the alleged threat, it now needs many years to heal its wounds and to rebuild its essential civilian structures.

## PNC's al-Hasan on Arabs' 'Loss' of Soviet Ally

*PM1009115791 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Sep 91 pp 28-29*

[Unattributed interview with Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the Palestine National Council's Parliamentary and Foreign Affairs Committee and member of the Fatah Central Committee, in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] There have been conflicting Palestinian views on the recent military coup attempt in the Soviet Union. There has been some confusion among public opinion. Why is that, in your view?

[Al-Hasan] I cannot speak accurately or in detail about the international public's confusion except from the angle of its fear of a return to the pre-Gorbachev era. [passage omitted]

As far as the Arab world is concerned, the confusion among ordinary individuals was a result of expressions of rejection of U.S. and Western political hostility toward the Palestinian people.

We must not forget that Gorbachev allowed the large-scale emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, Soviet recognition of the Zionist entity will be granted in return for Israel's participation in the peace conference, which is a cheap price to pay.

We should also take into consideration the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union's policy, that is, the shift from the balance of strength policy to the balance of interests policy, and from a foreign policy controlled by principles to a policy of serving interests.

As a result of all these things, the Arabs have lost an ally which they thought supported them against U.S.-led capitalism, which is utterly hostile to the Arab and Palestinian masses.

[AL-HAWADITH] We are asking more specifically: Do you not believe that the contradictions in the Palestinian positions have harmed the Palestinian cause?

[Al-Hasan] Before talking about the contradictions I must finish the previous sentence. I say that the Arab attitude was more a reflection of the rejection of the U.S. policy than an acceptance of or welcome for the Soviet coup. If we look at the idea of coups we find that the Arab masses have suffered terribly from coups and military regimes. The Arab masses, therefore, cannot be enthusiastic about any military coup, but the position taken was out of spite against the United States for its stance against Palestinian interests.

As regards the contradictions, we must not forget that there are many trends in the Palestinian arena. [passage omitted]

Our official position, as carried by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, is one of support for constitutional legitimacy and constitutional institutions regardless of who the leaders are. As Palestinian people and as a national liberation movement, we believe in democracy and are trying to deepen our own democracy as much as possible. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hawadith] Do you believe that the Soviet Union is capable of playing a significant part in the Middle East peace process?

[Al-Hasan] The Soviet Union is a superpower. True, it can no longer rival the first world superpower as it did in the past, but we must realize that the Soviet Union is now a state under construction, like a skyscraper demolished so that a new skyscraper can be built. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Are we to understand from what you are saying that the current Soviet role in the peace process is a marginal one?

[Al-Hasan] It is not marginal. The Soviet Union will determine its role in the peace process in accordance with its own interest in that. Having changed its principles from balance of strength to balance of interests and having changed its old policy of opposing everything capitalist, the Soviet Union will now link its position on the Middle East to its own interests, just like the United States.

[Al-HAWADITH] In view of what you have said, do you not believe that a wager on the Soviet Union would be a losing bet?

[Al-Hasan] A wager on any party, even the United States, would be a losing wager. You must wager on yourself. Our problem, however, is that there is no Arab solidarity. We would have achieved much more than we are currently achieving if we had Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

## Jordanian, PLO 'Experts' Meet in Amman

*JN1009143591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A meeting was held at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry today between Jordanian experts led by Qasim Ghazzawi, director of the political department at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, and Palestinians led by Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

In a statement to our radio, Sha'th stressed that these meetings are aimed at achieving the maximum possible level of cooperation between Jordan and the PLO regarding the peace process. He noted that what is required from these experts is to discuss details of the various political issues, particularly the issues of water and borders within the framework of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. The PLO interprets Resolution 242 as calling for a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967.

It is worth noting that it was decided in August, during the talks Jordan's monarch King Husayn held with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, to form a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee of experts. Sha'th pointed out that this committee will discuss all that can be done in terms of measures and plans, and prepare a paper for a future program of action, should the Palestinian political leadership decide to participate in the conference proposed for October.

These meetings come a week before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Amman, where he is scheduled to arrive on 17 September as part of his seventh tour of the region.

## Discuss Joint Delegation

*JN1109094891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 91 pp 1, 5*

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—Jordanian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials met on Tuesday to discuss the feasibility of forming a joint delegation to attend the Arab-Israeli peace conference that Washington is trying to arrange for next month, Palestinian sources said.

The sources, quoted by REUTERS, said a five-man PLO team, led by Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th, held talks with Foreign Ministry officials.

They form a so-called technical committee looking into the possibility of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. The group is also gathering details on other issues such as Middle East water rights and geographic boundaries, REUTERS said. [passage omitted]

## Egypt

### 'Arafat To Visit Cairo 'Soon' To Meet Mubarak

*NC1109101791 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 9 Sep 91 p 1*

[Text] MISR AL-FATAH learned through informed diplomatic sources that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat soon will pay a visit to the Egyptian capital. He will discuss with President Husni Mubarak the latest developments in the peace process in light of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's forthcoming visit to Cairo, other Arab capitals and the Zionist state.

### Primakov Arrives for Two-Day Talks, Comments

*NC1009130291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Yevgeniy Primakov, personal envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a two-day visit to Egypt as part of a tour of a number of the region's countries. In an arrival statement, he said it is "very important" to meet with President Husni Mubarak to explain to the Egyptian leadership the situation in the Soviet Union and how the crisis was overcome. He noted he also will discuss several issues concerning bilateral economic ties to bolster relations. He said that Egypt plays an important role in the Arab and African countries and the world. [passage omitted]

### Meets Mubarak, Comments

*NC1109090291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0816 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Yevgeniy Primakov, personal envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Vladimir Ployakov attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Primakov said President Mubarak will pay a working visit to Moscow in the near future. He added that he handed President Mubarak a message from President Gorbachev, in which the latter expresses his appreciation for Egypt's stand during the August crisis in the Soviet Union.

Primakov said the meeting with President Mubarak was very useful. He stressed the need for the continued friendship between his country and Egypt, adding that all Egyptian-Soviet meetings are very important in light of Egypt's vital regional and international role. Primakov added: We aim to improve economic and political ties.

Concerning the situation in the Soviet Union following the failed coup, Primakov said that the current policy aims to consolidate stability in the Soviet Union, answer the sovereignty demands of the republics, and promote a joint economy and defense.

Primakov said the Soviet Union is undergoing a difficult phase and needs economic and financial assistance. He expressed his hope that the relations between the Soviet Union and all the countries in the region will remain good.

Primakov said the Soviet Union will participate in the Middle East peace conference and will play an effective part equalling that of the United States.

Concerning the possible resumption of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic ties, Primakov said that this depends on Israel's participation in the Middle East peace conference.

Answering a question on Israel's condition that Moscow resume relations with it prior to Soviet participation in the peace conference, Primakov said: The Soviet Union is not a country that can be pressured.

### Ghali Sees 'Political Will' for Mideast Peace

*PM1009132991 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 91 p 5*

[Interview with Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign liaison and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, by Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Hijazi] How would you assess the chances of convening the Middle East peace conference in view of the various parties' positions and recent developments in the Soviet Union?

[Ghali] I believe that the international peace conference will be held in time, in October, and perhaps in Washington. And I believe that cooperation between U.S. diplomacy and Soviet diplomacy is a gain for the Arab cause. In my view, through such cooperation the obstacles to peace in the region will be surmounted. What is more, I believe that the convening of the conference will give a strong impetus to the advocates of peace and will inevitably lead to the containment of the advocates of rigidity, military confrontation, and extremism. The conference will produce bilateral committees in addition to an expanded committee that will include the various parties. That is, it will eventually become a conference that is broadened in nature and able to tackle the various issues concerning the region.

[Hijazi] Do you believe that the steps which have been taken so far to convene peace talks in the Middle East match the optimism you are expressing?

[Ghali] First, I am not one to try to belittle the obstacles facing the efforts to convene the peace conference and negotiations with Israel. The question will not be settled in two days. What inspires optimism is that we sense a political will among all the parties concerned to seize the

peace opportunity, as it is a rare opportunity. And if we look at the steps which were taken before Egypt reached a peace treaty with Israel, we will find that they took longer than the time which the parties concerned took to agree on convening the peace conference. The Gulf war ended in March 1991 and it was not possible to make a move to resolve the Palestinian issue during that war. And once the war was over an agreement crystallized among the various parties to convene negotiations among them to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. But peace problems now are more difficult than 10 years ago and, if the parties concerned do not make a move now, these problems will double in the future.

[Hijazi] What role do you expect Egypt to play in the peace conference?

[Ghali] It will play the role of an objective mediator between the Arab parties and Israel. It is fully qualified for such a role, because it is the only Arab state which has recovered its occupied territories through a peace treaty. And also because it has no ambitions. [passage omitted]

### Shamir's Remarks Endanger Peace Talks

*NC1109082491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—[Passage omitted] AL-JUMHURIYAH, in an article entitled "Shamir's Claims and the Future of Peace," criticizes the statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who said that U.S. President George Bush is jeopardizing peace because he links the issue of Israeli loan guarantees with the proposed Middle East peace conference. The newspaper says that these statements are very grave, particularly coming from a country with special and distinguished ties with the United States.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the real danger to peace is Shamir's own remarks, in which he said that occupied Arab territories belong to Israel. Shamir said if Israel stopped building the settlements it would be giving up its right to this land. Such remarks, AL-JUMHURIYAH writes, constitute a death sentence for the proposed peace conference. Shamir, by uttering these words, is bidding farewell to the peace conference and is dealing a formidable blow to peace itself, the paper concludes. [passage omitted]

### U.S.-Kuwaiti Security Agreement Assessed

*NC1109080891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—[Passage omitted] On the security arrangement between Kuwait and the United States, AL-AHRAM says in its editorial that the military and security agreement that Kuwait and the United States have initialed should not raise any sensitivities because it is between two countries that have complete sovereignty over their territory and destinies.

The newspaper says: The timing of the agreement also should not prompt any objections. Kuwait has been stricken by an unprecedented invasion by a neighboring Arab country. Therefore, it is completely entitled to seek measures to ensure its future safety through cooperation with brotherly Arab and friendly countries. Kuwait is even entitled to act swiftly on this and to seek, without qualms, the cooperation of willing partners.

AL-AHRAM says Kuwaiti papers did not have to justify the agreement. The Kuwaiti papers were eager to distance the agreement from the concept of colonialism by arguing that it only involves facilities at some ports and areas. The term facilities has little meaning today, AL-AHRAM says, because the transport and landing operations as well as the purpose of setting up permanent bases have all undergone basic changes. This was probably the point that the Kuwaiti papers wished to make, AL-AHRAM says.

AL-AHRAM says that even the United States has denied its need for permanent bases or the presence of ground forces. AL-AHRAM says that granting facilities for naval activities, which already exist in the region, seems to be the main purpose of the agreement. This, AL-AHRAM says, is nothing for which the Gulf countries can be blamed in view of past experience.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying: The question that remains unsettled, however, is that of the Damascus Declaration and the role it assigned to Egypt and Syria. Most probably, the paper says, the declaration is on its way to be implemented and will have the necessary support and backing of all the parties concerned. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### One Killed in Security Forces Clash With Iraqis

*LD1009142991 London KUNA in Arabic 1411 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Kuwait City, 10 Sep (KUNA)— One member of the Kuwaiti security forces died today following a clash with Iraqi elements who penetrated Kuwait's northern border.

Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said in a press statement that an Iraqi car carrying three Iraqis infiltrated Kuwaiti borders and was pursued by a Kuwaiti patrol. The Kuwaiti patrol exchanged fire with the car's occupants in the pursuit. The minister added that the Kuwaiti patrol succeeded in damaging the Iraqi car, indicating that after the vehicle was damaged, one of the infiltrators threw a hand grenade at the Kuwaiti patrol. As a result one member of the patrol was killed and two of the Iraqis were injured. The third Iraqi was apprehended without having sustained any injuries.

### Smugglers Captured in Shootout

*LD1009195491 London KUNA in Arabic 1810 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Sep (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said today that one of its patrols belonging to the external posts [outside Kuwait city] today foiled an attempt by three Iraqi individuals to infiltrate and smuggle weapons, ammunition, and wine along the al-Salmi road. [passage omitted]

The ministry added that two of the smugglers were injured and that all the injured were taken to al-Jahra' hospital. The third smuggler was arrested. It also announced the capture of a quantity of weapons, ammunition, and wines, while the smugglers and the seized material were referred to the competent quarters.

### Minister Rejects Iraqi Allegations on POW's

*LD1009161391 London KUNA in Arabic 1341 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Sep (KUNA)—Ghari 'Ubayd al-Sammar, minister of justice and legal affairs, strongly refuted the allegations which the Iraqi regime's officials persisted on repeating at international forums and through the media to the effect that Kuwait was slack in receiving its prisoners of war and did not cooperate with the International Red Cross in this regard. He described these allegations as "mere lies and twisting of the facts."

Minister al-Sammar, who is also the chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee for POW and Missing Affairs, in responding to these allegations and to show the truth, said that Kuwait rovided the International Red Cross and all concerned organizations with authentic lists of those who were reported by their relatives in Kuwait—whether they were Kuwaitis, non-Kuwaitis, or any of 12 other nationalities—and demanded the Iraqi regime hand them over.

He went on to say that the Iraqi regime, despite all this, continued to delay and dodge a matter that prompted Kuwait to raise the subject with all international organizations.

The Kuwaiti minister said it is rationally and logically unacceptable for Kuwait to be slack in receiving its prisoners of war while insisting at all international levels on the demand to force Iraq to hand over the prisoners who are registered with the International Red Cross.

The Kuwaiti minister of justice and legal affairs said that the International Red Cross' lists contained 3,400 names. After checking these lists, it was found that they contain the names of only 174 Kuwaitis and around 3,000 names marked as non-Kuwaiti, all of whom belong to 606 non-Kuwaiti families. The rest were of other nationalities.

After the appropriate Kuwaiti official checked these names against the Kuwaiti civil register, he added, it was confirmed, as reported to the International Red Cross, that they were not Kuwaitis, and that none of them had a legitimate Kuwaiti residence permit. He went on to say that those persons are not considered prisoners of war according to the rules of international law and the Geneva Conventions regarding the prisoners of war as they are not detained or imprisoned in Iraqi jails but voluntarily registered with the International Red Cross requesting to enter Kuwait.

As entry to Kuwait is governed by the laws of nationality and residence valid in the country, therefore, those persons can not enter Kuwait because the current laws do not allow that, the minister said.

He demanded the Iraqi regime give up dodging and playing and reveal to the International Red Cross office in Baghdad the true identity of those who it claims to be Kuwaitis.

With regard to the 174 Kuwaitis whose names appear in the relevent lists, the minister said, the Kuwaiti authorities have actually requested their hand over and the arrangements for receiving them are under way.

The minister of justice and legal affairs stressed that the Kuwaiti Government insists, on its part, that Iraqi should respect the international resolutions cocnerning the handing over of genuine prisoners of war listed in the register presented by Kuwait to the International Red Cross.

### Released Prisoners of War Return

*LD1009134791 London KUNA in Arabic 1235 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Sep (KUNA)—Some 56 prisoners of war, including 25 Kuwaitis, returned to Kuwait today from Iraqi detention camps.

Among the prisoners of war, who arrived in the Saudi 'Ar'ar area earlier today, are 26 women, while the rest are children, youths, and elderly men. [passage omitted]

### Amir Receives al-Qadhdhafi's Envoy 10 Sep

*LD1009130191 London KUNA in Arabic 0946 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Sep (KUNA)—His highness the amir of Kuwait this morning received His Excellency Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, the envoy of the leader of the Libyan revolution. The Libyan envoy delivered a message to his highness from his brother His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The audience was attended by Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir, the interior minister; sister Libya's ambassador to the State of Kuwait; and Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti, the chief of the amir's office.

### 'Persuasion' Urged To Halt Violent Crime

*PM1009142391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 6 Sep 91 p 1*

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "So That Violence Does Not Destroy Us"]

[Text] What happened at Nasir al-Mubarak Secondary School in al-Jahra' Governorate a few days ago is frightening and deserves more than one pause for examination and remedy. For a student to be killed by his colleagues and for many others to sustain fractures and injuries as a result of a fight involving over 30 students reveals the incident as no ordinary one. And we had hoped to be able to look at and deal with it as an isolated incident. But Interior Ministry reports reveal that violence is almost turning into a general phenomenon. Thus the remedy is no longer the job of the Interior Ministry and police organs alone. Society as a whole, beginning with the home and going on through to the psychologists, sociologists, school teachers, and university professors as well as the imams and ulema at the mosques.

A glance at the latest Interior Ministry report on one day's incidents will reveal the phenomenon of violence, which is new to our society, customs, and traditions. The report says that three car accidents occurred the day before yesterday. In the first the Kuwaiti driver was killed. The second resulted in injuries. In the third a female citizen was run over and was admitted to hospital for treatment. The report also lists five thefts on the same day. And under the title "Shots Fired" it says: "A number of people were brought to the northern al-Jahra' police station after they fired shots at wedding parties-...and three Kuwaiti citizens were warned, as shots were fired intensively during their wedding celebrations."

Hit and run, stealing, shooting, and students murdering a colleague with a sharp instrument...this is not and will not be the nature of a peaceful Kuwaiti society which is assured about its present and future. This is so because all these are the results of the war. But just as we are dealing with these results by using the latest methods and the most specialized teams to extinguish the burning oil wells, so we must extinguish in this regard the burning wells of violence—and that requires the participation of society as a whole, because priority must always be given to human beings.

The predicament experienced by our people between the occupation and the liberation is difficult to describe. Rape, overt mass murder, corpses left on the streets, and the cries of fathers, mothers, sisters, and sons under torture; and the organized daily violence perpetrated by the occupying host against our steadfast people, as well as the bitterness of homelessness, the loneliness of dispossession, the shock of sudden eviction, the brutality of treachery, and the scenes of plunder and looting... all this is bound to affect the generation which lived through this bitter experience. It is bound to affect its mentality, behavior, and values. Thus hastening to study this phenomenon and proposing the means to remedy it must be our first and constant aim and task, and it is not an impossible one.

It is not an official or government task, but a people's task in the first place. The police station provided by the government to maintain the citizen's security is a partial and temporary remedy which comes from outside. But the real remedy comes from within. It comes from persuasion, not coercion and prohibition. And in order to provide such persuasion for our sons we must begin this task from home, because home is the first school, and not just lay the burden on the teacher's or policeman's shoulder. The sense of belonging to one family, which prompted all Kuwaitis to act as one in demanding the return of our POW's and in working to alleviate their families' agony of separation from their loved ones, constitutes our guide to collective action to rescue society from these new diseases and to extinguish the wells of violence burning inside young people who were attacked unexpectedly by treachery and who suffered the calamities of occupation and still carry the scars of these calamities.

And, with all the arms left behind by the occupation, violence is turning into an epidemic threatening all. It is not Nasir al-Mubarak Secondary School alone which sounds the alarm bells; and we have no other option: Either we confront the problem, or we put on mourning!

## Qatar

### Amir of Kuwait Arrives for Official Visit

*JN1109104191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Doha, 11 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, arrived in Doha at noon today on a short official visit to the State of Qatar.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, was at Doha International Airport, heading up those who received his highness the amir of Kuwait.

A number of shaykhs, ministers, the head of the consultative council, under secretaries, and ranking civil and military officials also received Shaykh Jabir.

Ahmad Ghanim al-Rumayhi, ambassador of the State of Qatar to the State of Kuwait; Ahmad Murshid al-Sulayman, Kuwait's ambassador in Doha; and the embassy staff also participated in the reception.

## Yemen

### Party Official Killed, 2 Injured in Sanaa Attack

*NC1109101291 Paris AFP in English 0956 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Sanaa, Sep 11 (AFP)—A leading political figure, 'Umar Abdallah al-Jawi, was shot and a colleague killed by a gunman who opened fire on their car in Sanaa, Yemeni officials said Wednesday.

They said Jawi, a cabinet adviser as well as leader of the opposition Yemeni Unionist Party (YUP), escaped with light injuries after Tuesday's attack.

But Husni 'Ali al-Huraybi, a party official for Sanaa, died of his wounds and his son was also seriously injured.

The gunman opened fire as they were stepping out of the car in a southern district of the capital. Police were combing the area for the assailant, who fled in another car.

Jawi is a prominent critic of Muslim fundamentalists who had opposed the new Constitution for Yemen, which was united in May 1990. Al-Huraybi helped draw up the Constitution, adopted in a May 1991 referendum.

Governmnent parties Wednesday condemned the attack, which they said had been carried out by "enemies of democracy" and vowed that the perpetrators would not go unpunished.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

### Position on UN Use of Helicopters Explained

*JN1009125591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, rebutted allegations attributed by AFP to diplomatic sources at the United Nations headquarters claiming that Iraq prevented the committee entrusted with destroying Iraqi ballistic weapons from using two helicopters.

AFP also cited the sources as saying that the Iraqi authorities proposed to the committee members that they be transported by Iraqi helicopters, but this was rejected by the committee.

In a statement to INA, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf explained that the inspection team's request is not new, neither is Iraq's stand on it.

In his statement, the minister said that from the outset, Iraq objected to the use of foreign helicopters inside Iraq due to the danger of using helicopters under our current circumstances. These circumstances include the inaction of most Iraqi meteorological stations and weakness of communication systems between pilots and planes. He indicated that the safe and comfortable land transportation means made available by Iraq have dismissed any practical need for the use of helicopters.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, made the following statement to INA:

AFP cited diplomatic sources at the UN headquarters in New York as saying that Iraq prevented the UN special committee, entrusted with the destruction of Iraqi ballistic missiles, from using two helicopters, placed at the committee's disposal by the Germans to facilitate its movements. The diplomatic sources, which AFP did not identify, said that the Iraqi authorities proposed that the committee members be transported by Iraqi helicopters, but that this suggestion was rejected by the committee.

The AFP dispatch also reports that the special committee's chairman Rudolf Ekeus conveyed a message to the current UN Security Council president, the French representative, who held talks with the U.S. and British representatives.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said: We would like to explain all the facts concerning this subject, which are as follows:

During its visit to Iraq during the period from 6-12 September 1991, the team inspecting Iraqi missiles requested the use of three helicopters allocated by Germany for the inspection team's use during inspections of missile positions in Iraq. The inspection team's request is not new, neither is Iraq's position regarding it.

From the outset, Iraq objected to the use of foreign helicopters inside Iraq in light of the danger resulting from the use of helicopters given the current circumstances. Such circumstances include the closure of most Iraqi meteorological stations and the weakness of communication systems between pilots and airports. Moreover, the safe and comfortable land transportation made available by Iraq to the inspection teams has dismissed any practical need for the use of helicopters.

In light of the special committee's insistence on the use of the aforementioned foreign helicopters, on the pretext of securing quicker transportation to the sites it would like to inspect, the Government of the Iraqi Republic expressed readiness to make available its best helicopters, along with crews and technicians, to meet the committee's needs. Thus, the needs of the inspection team would be met and there would be no need for the use of foreign helicopters, if this use was only intended to meet those needs.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added: The use of foreign helicopters is no longer justified, especially after Iraq expressed its full readiness to supply Iraqi helicopters. Iraqi helicopters accompanied a missile-inspection team to a missile site on 5 July 1991, and other Iraqi helicopters also transported another inspection team from Baghdad to a site outside the city and vice versa on 12 August 1991. Hence, it is logical that the use of Iraqi helicopters is the right thing to do and will meet the inspection teams' needs. So, why does the special committee insist on the use of foreign helicopters?

Iraq rejects the use of these foreign helicopters in its airspace at a time when its national security is being threatened by the current circumstances in the region. We do not believe the claims that the inspection teams' use of foreign helicopters is only aimed at carrying out these teams' missions. We believe they are used for other purposes that have nothing to do with Security Council resolutions. Therefore, the use of any helicopters in our airspace is a violation of our country's sovereignty and independence.

The minister of state for foreign affairs concluded by saying: We hope that cooperation and good intentions will prevail in relations between Iraq and the special committee. We also believe that when cooperation prevails between the two sides, the best results will be achieved. However, when unjustified demands are made, no positive results will be achieved in the short and long runs.

### Hammadi: U.S.-Kuwaiti Agreement Threat to Arabs

*JN1009195191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi asserted that the main threat posed by the U.S.-Kuwaiti agreement is that it aims to restore U.S. military influence in the region. He added that this action is categorically rejected.

In an interview to be published by the magazine ALIF BA' tomorrow, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi said this agreement acts against Arab national security and will divide

the Arab nation and threaten its security and future. He explained that this action will have negative consequences on the Kuwaiti rulers themselves, and that the Arab nation's masses categorically oppose this agreement.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi said the Kuwaiti Government has taken advantage of current Arab, Kuwaiti, and international circumstances to do such a thing. He stressed that the Kuwaiti rulers have always had intentions of establishing a direct coalition with the foreigner to make sure they remain in power.

Answering a question regarding the nature of ties between Iraq and the surrounding Arab countries, the prime minister stressed that Iraq's position in the Arab League and its meetings remains unchanged. He said everyone will discover that our policy is principled and sound.

Regarding the Palestinian question and the proposed settlement conference, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi said that the Zionist entity and the United States will try to impose on the Arab nation a plan to entrench the annexation of Jerusalem and a large portion of the West Bank to Israel, and give Israel concessions at the expense of the Arab nation, at the head of which will be the normalization of ties and an end to the economic boycott. He added that the Zionist plan will not succeed, and will be resisted by the Arab nation and its militant forces.

**Further on Interview**

*JN1109095291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0853 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi asserted that the dialogue with the delegation of Kurdish parties achieved important and useful results. He added that the dialogue indeed achieved a great degree of understanding, in addition to the mutual understanding of each other's views.

In an interview with the political editor of the magazine ALIF BA', Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi described the dialogue with the Kurdish parties as positive. He said many things have been agreed upon, asserting that the elements for reaching an agreement are stronger than the elements against it, despite that America and the anti-Iraq alliance do not want the dialogue to achieve its objectives.

The prime minister emphasized that one of the characteristics of the new stage is a real belief in developing the system of revolutionary organizations into constitutional organizations. This is because establishing a political system is a gradual, cumulative process. He stressed the need to take into consideration the world's experience in this field and invoke the spirit of the age because political democracy is the spirit of the age, and we are part of this age.

Hammadi said that we continue to hold fast to the unity of Iraq and our society, avoiding chaos, disorder, and lawlessness.

He emphasized the importance of collective efforts, and said that we must build our political and democratic system in a way that does not cause our society to disintegrate and without creating chaos or confusion in our political and economic system.

Therefore, the prime minister added, we must not only choose our objectives carefully, but our methods as well. Choosing the objectives might be easy, he noted, but the careful choice of methods is a process that involves political know-how and a sense of responsibility. We are responsible for Iraq's unity and cohesion and its Arab affiliation and national unity. We are also responsible for security, order, the society, and the perpetuity of the state.

Answering a question on how to foil the U.S. blockade, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi said that steadfastness, not talk, and hard work in our economic and domestic life and our Arab and international relations, and communication and interaction with the world would make the United States retreat. This is because when the United States sees that Iraq is steadfast and strong, it will gradually abandon its position and deal with the facts, especially since there is now much talk in the world about the need to lift the blockade, and many countries have started to see that U.S. hegemony is detrimental to peoples' legitimate interests.

The prime minister referred to Iraq's preparations to resume oil exports after the reasons that caused its halt are eliminated and said: As soon as the siege is lifted, we will be ready to export our oil to the world. There are wide and unannounced contacts from several oil companies from different parts of the world that want to buy Iraqi oil, establish relations with us now, and secure a position for themselves when we export oil.

On Iraqi foreign policy, the prime minister said that Iraq is ready to look to the future, and added: I believe that we will succeed and everybody will discover that our policy is a principled and sound one.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi renewed Iraq's readiness to establish positive relations with Iran on the basis of equality, noninterference in the internal affairs, and the principle of good neighborliness.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi referred to developments in the Palestine question and said the U.S. settlement plan consolidates the annexation of Jerusalem and a huge part of the West Bank by Israel and gives it privileges at the expense of the Arab nation.

He said this plan is one of the stages in the final Zionist goal which is to usurp all Palestinian soil and prepare to set up Greater Israel.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi stressed that the contents of the security agreement between Kuwait and the United States indicate the return of U.S. influence with its military aspect to the region. He added that the agreement is an action that is categorically rejected, is against

pan-Arab security, and creates division within the Arab nation and threatens its security and future.

He added that this action will have adverse results on Kuwait's rulers who exploited this special and extraordinary Arab and international condition and beleived it will be a permanent situation.

Dr. Hammadi stressed that the current situation is not permanent, as things will soon change and the Kuwaiti rulers mistake and haste will become clear.

He said: I have no doubt that the Kuwaiti rulers are willing to be involved in a direct alliance with foreigners in order to remain in power.

### Writers View Normalization of Ties With U.S.

*JN0909182091*

[Editorial Report] Baghdad BABIL in Arabic on 7 September publishes on pages 3-5, under the headline "A Political Debate at BABIL on Relations With America," an approximately 12,000-word "text" of a dialogue with Iraqi journalists 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin, Sabah Salman, and Sa'd al-Bazzaz, moderated by 'Uday Saddam Husayn, chairman of BABIL's board of directors.

Sabah Salman begins by defending his articles in which he called for the normalization of Iraqi-U.S. ties. He says: "The subject was blown out of proportion, as if normalization meant sacrificing sovereignty and decisionmaking powers." He adds: "I understand, as well as you do, that this is a personal opinion that might be wrong, but nevertheless it stems from goodwill and a concept I believe is sound. What is wrong with presenting this subject as long as all balances indicate that the United States is influential in the international arena, influential in the Middle East, influential in its calculations of Gulf security, and influential on the subject of a settlement?" Concluding, he asks: "Will relations continue to be severed permanently? Of course not. Is any attempt to establish or restore relations with the United States harmful or useful? I think it is useful. I may be wrong, but I believe it is useful."

AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Sa'd al-Bazzaz praises 'Uday's "initiative," which he says will activate "intellectual dialogue" in Iraq and says he is pleased with the existence of a "diversity of opinions." Turning to the subject of relations with the United States, he asks: "Will the United States agree to restore relations with Iraq? I doubt it because its declared conditions are humiliating, and we cannot accept them." Wishing that Sabah Salman had not written on the subject, al-Bazzaz says: "We now stand before a power called America. If we want to restore ties with it, we should accept its conditions, which say Iraq should be sold and its political system changed. We are for the restoration of ties with the United States if the latter recognizes us, our present system, our free choice, and our independence, and if it takes its hands off us, our wealth, and our sovereignty."

'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin thanks 'Uday Saddam Husayn for encouraging this debate, which he calls a "new initiative" and "a step along the path of democracy, for which we are striving." He adds that democracy has existed in "Iraqi social life since the 17-30 July 1968 revolution, although some steps along the path of democracy were somewhat delayed, primarily due to the fierce war we waged."

Turning to the issue of Iraqi-U.S. relations, Muhsin admits the importance of having "balanced relations" with the United States, and says: "Iraq is not responsible for the severing of ties with the United States, nor should Iraq be expected to take the initiative to restore them." He then talks about "documents" revealing U.S. complicity with the Kuwaiti rulers against Iraq before the Gulf war, as noted in first referent item.

Terming Sabah Salman's call for normalized relations with the United States as "hasty," Muhsin contends that such an issue is a higher state policy that needs good preparation and must be thoroughly explored before the two sides can get closer to restoring ties. He adds: "Briefly speaking, I am not against the restoration of relations with America, but we as a people are entitled to ask the United States to lift the embargo imposed on our country as a gesture of goodwill, and to adopt a different stance toward providing the Iraqi people with food and medicine. We are entitled to demand from the United States at least a word of regret for the martyrs our people have sacrificed. We are entitled to ask the United States to at least say that they do not want to change the regime in Iraq. It is the Iraqi people who are responsible for this, not the United States." He then says: "It is not courageous to call for the restoration of ties with the United States at present...courage lies in standing by the side of our revolution and leadership; it does not lie in saying we have to restore relations with the United States."

Concluding, Muhsin says: "The failure of the Soviet coup should not prompt us to seek dialogue on the restoration of relations with the United States at present; it now feels extremely strong, with additional power as conditions in the Soviet Union are beginning to settle in favor of the United States. It is natural not to hold dialogue with someone who feels he is strong and capable of persecuting others, but rather to wait for more appropriate circumstances, under which the opponent feels he needs to start a dialogue with you."

Commenting on the same subject, 'Uday Saddam Husayn says: "Fulfilling U.S. conditions for the restoration of ties will be the beginning of the end. If we as a regime or party implement these conditions, which call for abandoning the leader and many other things, we will fall into a mammoth whirlpool and will lose history after losing ourselves." He adds: "The moment we fulfill the U.S. conditions, we will be ousted by patriotic people who will accuse us of violating the national principles and harming the people's basic scared rights."

Drawing a comparison between Iraq and the Soviet Union, 'Uday Saddam Husayn says: "What is happening in the Soviet Union now reveals to us the huge difference between Gorbachev and Saddam Husayn. In his endeavor to maintain his seat, Gorbachev dissolved the Communist Party Central Committee and resigned as general secretary of the Communist Party. Are these the principles of men? If you wanted to resign why should you dissolve the Central Committee and go so far as to ban the Communist Party's work and activity? Far be it that our leader would behave in such a dishonorable fashion."

Speculating on future developments in the United States, 'Uday says: "We must know that America will witness changes. Zionism does not approve of a strong America, or more correctly, a strong Bush. I think that Zionism will play a basic role in the next elections to topple Bush because the president who has the laurels, or who tries to show others that he has the victory laurels, will not serve Zionism tomorrow, as he will have an opinion or opinions that may not serve Zionism and its interests, especially since Zionism wants dummies that can be manipulated the way it wishes."

In his concluding remarks, 'Uday comments on remarks by an unnamed writer, who preferred anonymity to avoid embarrassment, and says: "Once I told a brother: We heard about the CIA, and there was a study of it. The CIA depends on two main branches. First of all, it depends on men it supports with money to establish commercial offices in Europe and all parts of the world, believing that the connection between interest and money is the shortest way to profit and influence. As long as there are interests and money, they can, through these offices, get whatever they want." He adds: "Secondly, they depend on the press because they know that a journalist can reach everything anywhere and has a specific ability to note this or that thing. Thus they benefit from him. They have a special branch that collects all world newspapers, and cuts and documents what is deemed important and useful to them. This is then stored in computers and used to deduce many things that achieve what they aspire for, in accordance with their plans and strategic aims. It is not shameful to imitate the Americans and take what is good from a better experience. We can learn and benefit from this experience, and add to it what we think is useful and in harmony with our own situation, which is different from theirs.

"Therefore, we should draw up three tasks for the press. The first is to uncover and expose what is bad. The second is to give a positive opinion and deal with the negative and bad aspects. The third, which is the most important, is to publish in the newspapers the objective or subjective discussion and argument taking place among your people in order to analyze it and highlight its positive and negative aspects, so that talk or discussion will not turn into clamor or mental destruction or rumor. When these three tasks are realized or provided, our press will develop and achieve what we are all aspiring for."

This issue of BABIL, unlike all other issues received thus far, consists of eight pages, instead of the usual four.

## Water Summit 'Conspiracy Against Arab Rights'

*JN1109075691 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic*
*9 Sep 91 p 3*

[Unsigned article in the "Follow-up" column entitled: "Turkey's Water Summit Is a Conspiracy Against Arab Rights and a Service to Zionist Ambitions"]

[Text] Turkish President Turgut Ozal is still trying to convene a summit on water in his country. He made the proposal in his speech at the conclusion of the Islamic foreign ministers conference, recently held in Istanbul and dominated—according to all observers—by U.S. policies hostile to Iraq and the Palestine question.

Calling for convening a conference on Islamic security and cooperation, Ozal presented his idea, which, if it materializes, will constitute yet another conspiracy against the Arab nation and its legitimate rights. To sum up the proposal, waters of the Tigris and the Euphrates would be transferred directly to the Gulf states. Such a project, clearly, will be at the expense of Syria and Iraq. Indeed, it will explode the situation and create new areas of tension, this time over water, not oil. The idea, moreover, serves the Zionist entity, which is suffering from severe water shortage, and which is engaged in several projects to steal Arab waters. These projects include the attempts to divert the waters of the River Jordan and the al-Litani river.

Press information and reports stress that Turkey is providing the Zionist entity with its water needs by tankers via Iskenderun.

Toward the end of August, THE WASHINGTON POST revealed the main point of disagreement that hinders the summit. The U.S. Administration made its attendance of the conference conditional on the participation of the Zionist entity, because this entity is the side to benefit most from the project. Depending primarily on the waters of the River Jordan, the Zionist entity will have a great chance to control the water sources in the region.

Thus, the conference is nothing but another conspiracy against the rights and development of the Arab nation.

The United States set this condition mainly because it does not want to discuss any of the delayed topics—such as water—before finishing the capitulatory settlement project through the so-called peace conference.

It is clear from the newspaper's report that the role of the Turkish president is confined to coordinating positions and extending invitations to the Arab sides that do not oppose the water conference, but which, of course,

object—through the media—to the Zionist entity's attendance; we mean the Syrian regime.

Observers believe that these sides will perhaps end their opposition to the Zionist entity's attendance of the water conference after the convening of the settlement conference in which these sides will directly participate. This is why the U.S. Administration proposed, or rather linked its participation to, an invitation to Israel.

According to Ozal's plan, initial invitations will be extended to all states of the region to participate at ministerial level; the major industrial countries will also be invited to attend the conference between 3 and 9 November.

Turkish attempts to serve Zionist objectives coincide with a revelation made by the Arab Affairs Committee of the Egyptian People's Assembly in August 1991; namely, that the Zionist entity was stealing Egyptian groundwater in northern Sinai and was planning to build, in coordination with Ethiopia, six dams on the Nile fountainheads. This is a threat to Egypt's national security because 85 percent of the Nile waters come from Ethiopia. Ethiopian ambitions in the Nile waters are old, and they are in line with the international strategy of threatening the food security of Egypt and Sudan.

The same applies to Turkey, which is trying to harm the right of Iraq and Syria to the waters of the Tigris and the Euphrates and to threaten food security in the two countries.

Iraq has brought up the issue in many political meetings; it called on Turkey to respect the rights of all parties in accordance with international agreements.

There is yet another indication that Turkey's call for the conference is meant to serve the Zionist strategy. Since the fifties, the Zionist entity has been suffering from severe water shortage, and the problem exacerbated with the growth of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine. The Egyptian AL-SHA'B newspaper pointed out that the Zionist entity will shortly go to war to control water sources in Jordan and Lebanon, or it may try to achieve this through threatening the Nile fountainheads and looting groundwater in Sinai. This poses a serious threat to Egypt, which stands at the threshold of a new phase in which it will face water shortage for the first time, as admitted by the Arab Affairs Committee of the Egyptian People's Assembly.

'Abd-al-Nasir's Egypt stood up to this challenge in the early sixties and managed to foil all Zionist attempts targeting Arab water resources.

From this premise, we say that the participation of the Gulf states and the Syrian regime in Turkey's water summit will constitute another betrayal of Arab rights, and a threat to the Arab nation's future and food security.

## Writer Views Soviet 'Betrayal' of Cuba

*JN0909190091 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 7 Sep 91 p 1*

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "Cuba Is in Danger"]

[Excerpts] The new Soviet foreign minister's statement the day before yesterday concerning relations with Cuba, constitutes a Soviet green light to the United States for aggression against the "island of freedom" in the American hemisphere.

These days, the Soviets also resorted to betraying Cuba just as what happened with Iraq, Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Palestine, and in many other states, liberation movements, and national revolutions in the Third World and Eastern Europe, irrespective of details. The Soviets' first betrayal of Cuba was during the missile crisis of the early sixties. [passage omitted]

The improvement of relations between Havana and Moscow, at other times, have always been contingent on the state of relations between Moscow and Washington. However, it took another form after Gorbachev assumed power in the USSR.

During the Gorbachev era, the Soviets put their relations with Iraq and the cooperation and friendship treaty between the two countries behind them when they voted in favor of all the UN Security Council resolutions against our country.

Concerning the issue of Afghanistan, the Soviets withdrew their forces from this country without even getting guarantees to stop foreign interference, which is under U.S. auspices, against this country. They held negotiations with the "opposition" and with Saudi Arabia in the absence of the Kabul government.

The Soviets made many concessions to the United States in the name of "the new world order" regarding the issues of Angola and Mozambique. Thus, Cuba was put in the situation of a person who has no choice but to withdraw its forces from this country which was exposed, several times, to South African aggression—a country where the "opposition" gangs of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola fight under direct instruction and support from the fascists in Pretoria and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

People across the world, who were angered by the aggression against Iraq, undoubtedly realize that the U.S. "domino game" must not go unpunished. This is why they believe that defending Cuba under these circumstances is, in effect, a defense of the cause of freedom that was first upheld by Iraq. This fight for freedom is now being faced by Cuba and other states around the world that dare to say "no" to the United States.

## Prime Minister Chairs Economy Planning Meeting

*JN0909195691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi said that programmed scientific planning will be a main pillar of the new Iraq.

Chairing a meeting today comprising a number of ministers and specialists, Mr. Hammadi stressed the importance of realistic, in-depth, and analytical study of the problems and obstacles facing Iraq's economy, so that proper solutions can be proposed. The unjust economic blockade should be turned into a protective serum to help build a sound and healthy economy based on our own resources, he said.

The meeting discussed a draft report prepared by the Planning Ministry. It includes a study and analysis of the current condition of the Iraqi economy and a diagnosis of the economic problems and obstacles Iraq is facing as a result of the extraordinary circumstances brought by the accumulations of the Iranian aggression, the implications of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, and the economic blockade imposed against Iraq.

The report outlines the main objectives and the economic and developmental policies that should be pursued in the coming stage, especially self-reliance and promotion of the agricultural, industrial, and other sectors that support national economy. A series of financial and monetary measures should be adopted to help curb inflation and, consequently, strengthen purchasing power and improve the standard of living for Iraqi citizens.

In the light of the discussions, it was decided to rewrite the report and present its final form to the Council of Ministers so the necessary recommendations can be made.

The participants in the meeting stressed the need to define the bases and objectives of planning, and to get state institutions and academic and scientific establishments efficiently involved in the future plans of the Planning Ministry. They also stressed the need to hold realistic studies on available resources and to establish a mechanism for follow up, supervision, and result assessment with a view toward expanding economic activity in the coming period.

Participating in the meeting were the minister of agriculture and irrigation, the minister of planning, the minister of trade, the minister of finance, the minister of transport and communications, the minister of industry and minerals, the governor of the Central Bank, the chief of the Audit Bureau, and a number of university professors and specialists.

## Ramadan Sees No Justification for Blockade

*JN1009145691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq does not deal with principles only on occasions and that it will not submit to any external pressures that would turn it into colors and images that contradict national and pan-Arab objectives.

In an interview published by AL-SHA'B today, the vice president said Iraq gets stronger and hardens as hostile positions against it grow.

He added that Iraq abided by all UN Security Council resolutions and there is no justification for continuing the economic and political blockade against Iraq.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said he doubts the affiliation to the Arab nation of any Arab citizen who demands the continuation of the blockade.

Regarding the Kuwaiti regime's lies about the presence of prisoners in Iraq, the vice president said the Kuwaiti regime knows that it committed a crime against the entire Arab nation and, as is the case with every criminal, it fears the future. He added that if someone wanted to do something, they would do it without holding a number of Kuwaiti prisoners. The vice president wondered: What would Iraq do with those people? Are we going to extract gold from them, or sell them to buy food. He pointed out that all Kuwaiti allegations are baseless and the Arab League, in its capacity as an inter-Arab body, should follow the subject closely.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said the objectives of those encouraging the economic blockade are clear to the Iraqi people and that the people will not abandon their leadership, even if they must die of hunger. The people, he added, hold all respect and regard for their leadership.

## Paper on 'Unjust Blockade'

*JN0809100891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Sep 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—In its editorial today AL-QADISIYAH stresses that continuing the unjust economic blockade means that this blockade has become a political card among the comprehensive conferences [word as received] against Iraq.

The paper explains that all suggestions to ease the blockade on the Iraqi people are not sufficient to alleviate the suffering caused by it. These suggestions do nothing to nurse the wounds of the Iraqis caused by depriving them of food, medicine, commodities and animal products for more than a year. The paper notes that the humanitarian needs are much greater than the modest figures given in the American Security Council resolution, or those suggested by the UN secretary general.

AL-QADISIYAH, the organ of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, hopes that the secretary general's new proposals are the result of the awakening of his conscience, not a theatrical attempt agreed on by the 30-country alliance to avoid embarrassment and absolve the new world order from the crime of starving an entire people, and watching its children die of weakness or shortage of necessary medicines and vaccines.

The paper stresses that it is essential to fully and rapidly lift the embargo, and to facilitate the means and ways for Iraq to swiftly secure its people's needs of food and medicine. The current tragic situation calls for such a decision and such measures to avoid the human catastrophe that is about to take place. Other than this, the members of the brutal 30-country alliance led by the Americans will be held responsible before God, history, and humanity for this crime—the crime of the age.

Concluding its editorial, AL-QADISIYAH calls for dropping the blockade card and for not being mortgaged to it. It is satanic and evil, and those behind it, who today sit on the throne of the new world order, are necessarily evil and satanic.

## Shamir Reportedly Opposes Loan Compromise

*TA1109063691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Sep 91 p 2*

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Rami Tal in Washington]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not plan to accept any compromise proposal offered by the U.S. Administration on the Israeli request for loan guarantees. A decision in that spirit was made Friday in consultations Shamir conducted in his office. Shamir consulted with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, and Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

The message being transmitted by political sources in Jerusalem to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv is unequivocal: Preventing the guarantees will endanger the continuation of the peace process. Basing his views on that message, Yitzhaq Shamir is due to tell Baker in their upcoming meeting that if guarantees are not provided, Israel will not participate in the peace conference because it does not plan to enter the process "with a gun pointed at its head."

The U.S. secretary of state Sunday telephoned the prime minister's bureau to transmit New Year's greetings. According to Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, Baker told Shamir that he has some ideas on how to resolve the guarantee problem and that he would discuss it with Shamir when he arrives in Israel next week. According to Pazner, the two expressed the hope that the differences would be resolved in a friendly manner.

In the meantime, it seems that the clash between Israel and the Bush administration over the guarantees has been put off for at least two weeks following President Bush's meeting yesterday with senior senators in the White House.

According to the interim compromise, the debate on the Israeli request for $10 billion in loan guarantees will be postponed until January with the administration promising to compensate Israel on the financial damage that might be caused by the delay. Nevertheless, the administration refuses to commit itself outright to supporting the Israeli request in January and also adamantly refuses to make a commitment—whether overt or veiled—that it would avoid linking the guarantees to an Israeli promise on a settlement freeze.

Senator Daniel Moynihan said that the administration handed over a written six-point commitment on the guarantees. Among other things, it promised to compensate Israel for the postponement if it suffers losses and to announce again publicly its commitment to immigrant absorption.

Knowledgeable sources said, however, that Israel's friends left the meeting with the President disappointed and angry because the administration refused to promise the main thing—that in January it would approve the guarantees. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 11 September, in a similar page 1 report by Hemi Shalev and Drora Perl, adds that "in contrast to Shamir's apparently adamant position against a compromise on the guarantees issue, officials in the Foreign Ministry and the Treasury believe that the administration's proposal to provide interim funding for immigrant absorption should be considered seriously but on condition that there is a firm commitment that there would be no additional delay in discussions of the guarantees beyond January.

["The Treasury officials are very concerned that a direct confrontation with the administration will lead to delay or even abrogation of the guarantees and that the administration's proposals might ease the budgetary pressures temporarily. In the Foreign Ministry there is deep concern about a situation in which the administration would put its full weight behind a fight for the support of the Congress. 'In such a war, Israel will lose, even if it wins,' a senior official said."

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 11 September, in a page 1 report by Alisa Kaplan, Michal Yudelman, and news agencies, quotes "Jerusalem sources" as saying that "the U.S.'s changing its position on the guarantees may well lead Israel to reconsider its position concerning understandings between the two on the peace talks.

["The sources said that U.S. demands to hold up the guarantees and to stop settlement activity are intended to pressure Israel into concessions on the peace process.

["They added that the U.S. intention to replace the memorandum of understanding concerning the Palestinian delegation with a letter outlining its position to both sides will result in Shamir's toughening his stand on Palestinian representation."]

## Bank Governor Delays Trip to U.S. on Guarantees

*TA1109092091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] To facilitate the endorsement of the request for loan guarantees for immigrant absorption, the governor of the Bank of Israel has postponed his explanatory trip to Washington. Our correspondent Gid'on Rotem reports that after consulting with officials in Israel and abroad, Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel decided to postpone his trip against the background of the disagreements between Israel and the U.S. Administration.

Finance Ministry sources reported that there has been no change in Israel's position on the loan guarantees request. Israel is waiting to see what will be decided in the United States.

## Sharon Calls U.S. Behavior 'Danger Signal'

*TA1109065291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Hayim Zissowitz and Yaron Enosh—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Construction and Housing Minister Sharon.

[Sharon] Good morning to you.

[Zissowitz] Our correspondent Yaron Enosh will also be speaking with you.

[Enosh] As we just heard, Washington is unofficially linking the recent increase in settlements and the deferral of the loan guarantees by at least several months. Has the settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip really been stepped up, and if so, why now?

[Sharon] The construction drive throughout the entire country is being carried out at a rapid pace. This is happening in the Galilee, the Negev, around Jerusalem, and everywhere in the country. There is nothing exceptional about the rate of construction in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in comparison to other locations. Construction is being carried out everywhere. One must understand what is happening and what the Arabs are doing. They have made their participation in the peace conference conditional on the deferral of the loan guarantees, and the U.S. Administration has capitulated to the Arab demands. The Arabs are not doing this because of the settlements but because they oppose aliyah. Therefore, consciously or unconsciously, an awful precedent has been created in which the U.S. Administration has taken the side of those Arabs calling for raising obstacles to aliyah with the aim of stopping immigration.

By the way, this is something that the Arabs have been trying to do for over 100 years. This is something that cannot be countenanced, and every Jew in Israel and in the Diaspora and all friends of Israel must fight this without compromise. The Israeli Government, of course, must initiate this battle. I am sorry to say that President Bush may have not understood what kind of Arab trap he was falling into.

[Enosh] Minister Sharon, Israel agreed in the past to limit the diversion of immigrants to the territories. Why cannot some sort of compromise also be found now regarding the budget allocated to development in the territories, so as not to affect the U.S. loan guarantees?

[Sharon] Israel declared that it was not diverting or directing immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The number of immigrants who settled there of their own volition did not exceed 1 percent of the 355,000 immigrants who have arrived over the last two years. Israel did this so as not to harm the chances of aliyah from the Soviet Union, out of fear that there could be difficulties in getting the Jews out of there. Moreover, I would like to stress that Israel is not using U.S. aid to build in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This is a humanitarian act of helping Jews and in many cases of saving their lives. There can be no compromise on this issue. This is also the best thing the United States can do. The U.S. Administration's behavior regarding the loan guarantees bespeaks the nature of the scheduled peace conference and the atmosphere under which it will be convened. That in itself constitutes a danger signal.

[Zissowitz] If Congress indeed accedes to President Bush's request to defer the loan guarantees by several months, will you recommend to the cabinet that Israel not participate in the peace conference?

[Sharon] We all want peace. No one desires peace less or more than anyone else. I proposed to the cabinet several times, not on this matter but on no less significant issues, that Israel wait and reexamine its position in light of the changing conditions—and obviously what is happening with the loan guarantees only strengthens my opinion—and then come out with a proposal that can really bring peace. I am sorry to say that the international conference we are being dragged into, which stands contrary to all our past positions, cannot bring peace. It will only lead to additional tension and more pressure on Israel. A concession Israel makes today will only lead to another. One concession will lead to another. Almost nothing is left of the points we insisted on and upon which we reached agreement with the United States. Nothing is left of them.

[Enosh] If that is the case, then you at least feel that your position has been validated. What effect, however, will the deferral of the loan guarantees have on immigrant absorption in Israel? The loan guarantees were included in the state budget. What then will happen in the coming months when, at least as things appear now, the guarantees are not approved?

[Sharon] Obviously this would be a very serious matter. I think that the severity of this matter is not only in the difficulties that will be caused Israel; the severity is in the capitulation to the Arabs, which will undoubtedly result in increased and more extreme Arab demands prior to the negotiations and during the talks themselves. If one can get a country like the United States and the administration of Israel's greatest friend in the world to harm a humanitarian enterprise aimed at saving Jews, then one can undoubtedly make even greater inroads on other issues. Especially since this is an enterprise that should have been the direct continuation of the long-standing U.S. efforts to open the gates of the Soviet Union. Of course, this will make things harder for Israel; it also serves as a hint of what awaits us in the future. This also causes practical difficulties, but I do not think that we will not be able to continue absorbing immigrants. I am not dismissing the significance of this matter. The issue of the loan guarantees is of tremendous importance; however, Israel can and will go on. Perhaps each one of us will have to carry a slightly greater burden. Let us be truthful: not even one of us has felt the arrival of 355,000

Jews in two years. We are still leading our normal lives, and if we will have to do more we will have no choice but to do more. We can also appeal to international Jewry to make a greater effort. Israel is not alone.

[Zissowitz] Thank you, Minister Sharon.

### Meridor on Guarantees-Peace Process Linkage

*TA1109080391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning, Justice Minister Meridor.

[Meridor] Good morning.

[Zohar] If we look at U.S.-Israeli relations and examine the linkage that the United States is ultimately making, whether directly or indirectly, between the loan guarantees and the political process, then perhaps Israel should say: Okay, you have established that linkage, so now we will not proceed with the political process until we get the guarantees.

[Meridor] We oppose such a connection; therefore, we are not making such a linkage ourselves. Something should be said, however, about the phenomenon we are now witnessing. In a letter sent two days ago to congressmen, President Bush wrote: The issue of aid for immigration is a matter of great significance and complexity for both parties to the conflict—in other words, for both the Israelis and the Arabs—and I greatly fear, he wrote, that if we give Israel the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption, this will divert attention from other things, and so forth. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that a kind of legitimization has been given to the Arab position that immigrant absorption is an obstacle to peace. In my opinion, such a thing is unprecedented. We have never heard anything like this from any countries other than the Arabs. What is meant by saying that the issue of aid for immigrant absorption is very important to the Arabs? It is important to the Arabs in the negative sense. In other words, they oppose the absorption of immigrants. The linkage between immigrant absorption and the peace process is something Israel can in no way accept.

[Zohar] I would not presume to interpret President Bush's statements, but perhaps his intention, in the general context of the letter and according to the position held by U.S. officials in Washington, is that the United States is angry at Israel over the effort to increase the settlements.

[Meridor] It is interesting, but that is the interpretation that I have heard mainly from Israelis, not just from correspondents but also from political figures. This is understandable, and is part of the internal Israeli political struggles; but it is worthwhile noting that there is not one word on this matter in President Bush's detailed letter. I do not think that this was a coincidence, because Bush is thinking about the peace process and convening the conference. The argument over settlement, which is an old argument between Israel and the Arabs and also between us and the Americans to a certain extent, is but one of the disagreements between Israel and the Arab states and not the most important one. The exploitation of the issue of aid to Israel or the denial of such aid for immigrant absorption will continue throughout the entire peace process and will not stop with the settlements. Let there be no mistake on that. Therefore we must stand firm on our position and not permit this unprecedented connection to be made, because the meaning of this connection is that the United States will raise difficulties for aliyah, will make the absorption of immigrants difficult, and may even hinder the exit of Jews if you do not accept this or that position on the peace process. This could also be some sort of signal to the Arabs that the United States is also willing to link the issue of immigration, as was explicitly stated, with Israel's positions on the peace process—and this is something that cannot be accepted.

[Dan] Beyond the fundamental disagreement, where do matters stand now? Do you know about a six-point document in which the U.S. Administration promises to support the endorsement of the loan guarantees to Israel next January and to compensate Israel for any damages caused by what is expected to be a four-month delay? Could this compromise proposal be acceptable to Israel?

[Meridor] We are currently not dealing with compromises. Yesterday there was a meeting of several important senators with the White House staff, the President, and his advisers. There were meetings of the Republican and Democratic leaders. I hope that the matter will be resolved inside the U.S. Congress. Our position is clear. The very connection that was made here is very negative in our opinion....

[Dan, interrupting] In other words, Israel will not accept any compromise?

[Meridor] We are not looking for any compromise. We do not think that we should be looking at any compromise proposals. I would like to mention that over the past year there were quite a few instances in which the United States requested various things from Israel. For example, you remember the Gulf war. One could not say that we did not take the United States into consideration. We agreed to comply with what the United States asked from us on a certain matter—and there were also other matters—and we did not stipulate that we would agree to Washington's request only if we received funds for immigration absorption. That is not how things are done between friends, and I do not think that we should accept this method of linkage.

[Dan] Mr. Meridor, what power do we actually have in this struggle? Somebody in Washington already ridiculed Shamir and said he has forgotten who signs the check.

[Merihor] Look, I do not want to get into boastful arguments with the United States. We have a special relationship with the United States and we are allies even if we do have disagreements. We are grateful to the United States for the aid it has given Israel since 1973, especially in the military field, but also political assistance. I do not think that we should come with demands, but we can make what I consider one elementary demand: The State of Israel exists to absorb immigration. Our raison d'etre is to absorb immigrants and to be a refuge and national home for the Jewish people. For us, this issue is beyond any argument. We will not let it enter our relationship with the United States, for the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as one of the measures that can be employed in the political argument between Israel and the Arabs or between Israel and the United States. That is why we are not coming out with impudent or uncalled-for demands. We were explicitly promised that there would be no linkage [preceding word in English], connection, or link. You probably remember that we were asked to postpone submitting the request until September, and now that September has come and October is drawing near there is suddenly new talk. We think that this is very detrimental to the atmosphere; this creates the wrong impression—or at least so I hope—with the Arab countries. This will make things more difficult.

[Dan] The question is whether we can really place ourselves on an equal footing with the United States in this struggle?

[Meridor] I am not placing Israel on an equal footing with the United States. We are Israel. But I would like to remind you that not so many months ago the United States gave $6.9 billion to Egypt. Not guarantees, not loans, but an actual debt write-off, real money. I did not hear statements then such as peace should be given a chance or that Egypt should be required to fulfill its obligations to Israel and to send delegations and to establish commercial, industrial, and tourism ties. At that time, peace was not on the agenda. These questions should be asked regarding the relations between Egypt and the United States and Israel and the United States. Why now, when we are talking not about money, but only about loan guarantees to a country that has always paid back every cent that it borrowed, should there be a connection with the political process?

[Zohar] Thank you very much, Minister Meridor.

### Shamir to Paris; Hopes Building Will Continue

*TA1109055791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure for Paris on 11 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Qol Yisra'el correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, is Israel reconsidering its readiness to attend the peace conference in light of President Bush's determination to defer the loan guarantees?

[Shamir] The State of Israel opposes any attempts to attach conditions or to establish a linkage [preceding word in English] between the issue of U.S. aid through loan guarantees for the absorption of immigrants from the Soviet Union and any political issue whatsoever. Therefore, Israel does not think that this matter can affect its policy. I want to stress that I think that extending financial aid for immigrant absorption through loan guarantees is a brilliant idea, because this is a mechanism that can greatly help Israel in implementing the tremendous endeavor of absorbing the huge aliyah from the Soviet Union without placing a burden on the U.S. budget and without forcing the American taxpayer to pay the cost. That is why I think it is a great idea, and I cannot believe that the United States will refrain from helping in the tremendous humanitarian enterprise for which it has worked so hard all these years.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, is it true that the rate of construction in the territories has been accelerated and perhaps even tripled recently? Is this being done with your and the cabinet's approval, as Minister Sharon claims?

[Shamir] I do not check the statistics every couple of months. There is a construction drive throughout the entire country, in all areas.

[Golan] And will this drive continue despite the U.S. protests and in spite of President Bush's position?

[Shamir] Look, building is continuing and I hope it will continue in the future. [passage omitted]

### Hopes for U.S. To Be 'Honest Broker'

*TA1109115191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hopes that the United States will remain loyal to its principles and help Israel absorb the immigrants by giving it the loan guarantees. Shamir made these statements this morning during a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport before leaving on a visit to Paris. Our correspondent Arye Golan was there.

[Begin recording] [Golan] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Shamir was asked whether Israel still considers the United States an honest broker even after President Bush's appeal to the Congress to hold up the loan guarantees.

[Shamir] Well, during all the talks we have held with the Americans on the peace process until today, we have stressed repeatedly that the United States will have the role of the honest broker [preceding two words in English], something we have always demanded. The representatives of the United States always assured us that they would indeed adopt such a role. I hope that this will also be true in the future.

[Golan] Shamir was also asked whether he was reconsidering Israel's participation in the peace conference because of the holding up of the loan guarantees.

[Shamir] I have not thought about that. All that we have said until today obligates us. I merely have doubts as to whether such a step could really be helpful to the peace process. I fear that such a step could create an atmosphere that would be harmful and not beneficial to the process. [passage omitted]

## MK Rabin Rejects U.S. 'Dictates' on Guarantees

*TA1109103091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin rejects any linkage between Israel's request for loan guarantees for immigrant absorption and the demand to freeze settlements in the territories.

MK Rabin pointed out that he opposes the government's settlement policy but asserted that this is an internal Israeli affair. Regarding external matters, the United States must understand that there is a national consensus in Israel not to bow to outside dictates. Rabin expressed the belief that the disagreement over the loan guarantees would end in a compromise.

## Likud MK Calls for Postponing Baker Visit

*TA1009182491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau of the Likud has called on the government to postpone Secretary Baker's visit by a month and rethink its policy on the peace process. The chairman of the Likud's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee said that the U.S. Administration's policies run counter to Israel's best interests. He added that the administration has delayed a number of other aid proposals passed by Congress in recent years.

## Likud Sources See Early Elections if Aid Denied

*TA1109104591 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Sep 91 p 1*

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Senior Likud officials estimate that any delay in endorsing the U.S. loan guarantees will lead to early elections. Senior sources in the Likud said that there was no doubt that the Likud would want to avoid holding the elections, which are scheduled for the end of next year, with tens of thousands of immigrants homeless due to a lack of resources for construction. Therefore, if the loan guarantees were to be turned down, the Likud would try to call early elections. The date now quoted by Likud sources is sometime during the coming winter months.

The sources did not discount the difficulty in mustering a Knesset majority for a decision to call early elections. "The Labor Party will vote against the proposal in order to prove that the Likud has failed, but it will eventually have to throw down the gauntlet if it wishes to appear like a fighting opposition," the sources stressed. Nor did the Likud sources rule out a coalition crisis against the backdrop of the peace conference scheduled for October. "One cannot ignore the fact that the very decision to participate in the conference has caused certain shocks, and now if the Palestinian representation issue is resolved, the prime minister will have to announce that he is going to attend the conference. Such an announcement will elicit furious protests from the right-wing parties and inevitably lead to the dissolution of the government," the senior sources stressed.

## Paper Publishes Text of Gulf War White Paper

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["Text" of "White Paper" issued by the Government of Jordan in August 1991 entitled: "Jordan and the Gulf Crisis; August 1990-March 1991"]

[Excerpt] The object of this White Paper is to describe the policies of the Government of Jordan during the various stages of the Gulf crisis between the summer of 1990 and early 1991, with related documentation from official and public sources.

Over many years and particularly during this period, the Jordanian leadership made great efforts to prevent the deterioration of relations between Iraq and Kuwait and to encourage the amicable resolution of problems between them. With the explosion of the sitation as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Jordanian leadership doubled these efforts in order to contain the crisis, reverse the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, and tackle all the causes of this crisis peacefully through Arab mediation.

When these efforts failed, Jordan continued to take initiatives to convince the members of the United Nations to pursue diplomatic methods to solve the crisis, and to avoid decisions which would lead to military confrontation. When these efforts too were obstructed, Jordan strove to avert hostilities before widespread and perhaps irreparable damage could be done to the political, social, human, and ecological environment of the region.

At this time, when Jordan is exerting efforts to repair the damage done to inter-Arab relationships by the crisis, and to remove misunderstandings and sources of friction which may have temporarily clouded some of its traditional friends, the intent of this paper is not to reopen wounds or to cast blame on one party or another for stands taken in the past, but rather to clarify, once and for all, the realities and the motivation behind Jordan's policies toward the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, and toward the international developments to which that conflict gave rise.

It is the belief of the Jordanian leadership that the restoration of fraternal relations between members of the Arab community, and Jordan's relations with all members of the international community, depends not on trying to deny or forget that there were opposing points of views and conflicting policies, but rather on an honest and factually exact record of events and decisions so that mistakes or misjudgments may be clearly recognized, and hopefully avoided in the future.

Jordan's active involvement in all phases of the Gulf crisis was the product of three factors:

—its geographic position

—its close social, economic, and political links with Iraq, Kuwait, and the Gulf; a shared sense of belonging to the Arab community, a common cultural identity, and a common destiny

—and the recent formation of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], linking Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and Yemen, over which His Majesty King Husayn presided in 1990, the second year of its existence.

It was therefore natural that Jordan should play a leading role in seeking to avert a conflict between countries with whom it was closely associated, and to save the people of the region from the consequences of a war it clearly foresaw.

In all its efforts, Jordan maintained a neutral position between the parties of the conflict, and consistently sought to resume the role of mediator essential to any successful attempt to resolve opposing claims and counterclaims. The two main sources of contention between the governments of Iraq and Kuwait were a dispute about the frontiers between the two states, and another on the rights to the production of oil from the al-Rumaylah oil field. In addition, there was the old Iraqi interest in securing an outlet to the waters of the Gulf, which Iraq had been denied because of the way in which the boundaries between the two countries were drawn by representatives of the British Government in 1922.

It was possible, or rather a duty, to remove the reasons of this contention through the mediation of other Arab governments, which were obliged by virtue of their membership in the Arab League to make serious efforts to find a suitable Arab solution to the dispute, in conformity with the UN Charter (Chapters 6 and 8) relating to the peaceful settlement of regional disputes. This has been Jordan's position from the time it became clear at the May 1990 Arab summit in Baghdad that a dangerous situation had arisen from Iraq's inability to obtain satisfaction from the Government of Kuwait, concerning oil rights for the al-Rumaylah field, and from the adverse impact on the Iraqi economy of the internationally depressed oil prices, which the Iraqis blamed on increased Kuwaiti oil production, over and above the OPEC quotas set by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

In the last week of July 1990, his majesty exerted serious efforts to mediate between Iraq and Kuwait, and obtained assurances from President Saddam Husayn that Iraq would not resort to force in settling its dispute with Kuwait as long as negotiations were under way. While similar attempts at mediation were meeting with some positive response on both sides, action taken by external forces aggravated and escalated the atmosphere of contention between Iraq and Kuwait—foremost among them being the exercises carried out by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf, and the vote taken by the U.S. Senate on 27 July 1990 to cut off all foodstuff supplies and prohibit the transfer of military equipment and technology to Iraq. His Majesty King Husayn visited Baghdad on 29 July and Kuwait the following day,

urging officials in both governments to exercise more flexibility in what turned out to be a last-minute attempt to defuse the situation.

Unfortunately, the Kuwaiti authorities seemed to have had a false sense of security. They were reluctant to understand the danger of the situation and the Iraqi leadership's extreme anger with Kuwait while troops of both countries were massing at the borders—probably because the Kuwaitis believed that they could rely on immediate foreign support in the event of an invasion of their territory.

With Iraq's perception of the threat of external intervention and an intransigent mood in Kuwait, a meeting between the representatives of both sides, held in Jeddah on 31 July, was doomed to failure. Even so, the Iraqi Army's invasion of Kuwait in the early hours of the morning of 2 August took the Jordanian Government by surprise. His majesty was informed that the invasion had taken place at exactly 0550, by way of a telephone call from Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, who asked him to urge President Saddam Husayn to limit his invasion to the extent of the disputed boundaries between Iraq and Kuwait until the whole dispute could be resolved peacefully. When His Majesty King Husayn asked King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, where the Iraqi forces were, he was shocked to learn that they were approximately 6 km from Kuwait City and still advancing. Iraq's borders and airspace were closed and all attempts to telephone the Iraqi president failed until he returned his majesty's call on the afternoon of 2 August. President Saddam Husayn said to His Majesty King Husayn: The Iraqi Army, in response to a measured approach from Arab countries—and not to threats, provocations, or condemnation—would be ready to withdraw from Kuwait within days and complete its withdrawal within weeks.

Shortly after this telephone conversation and on that same day, 2 August, His Majesty King Husayn flew to Alexandria to meet with President Mubarak who urged him to visit Baghdad as soon as possible, a request that was endorsed by His Majesty King Fahd. The Jordanian and Egyptian heads of state also spoke with U.S. President George Bush, who considered the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to be totally unacceptable and expressed concern over the fate of foreigners in Kuwait. His Majesty King Husayn informed the U.S. President that he needed 48 hours during which he could travel to Iraq and obtain specific commitments from President Saddam Husayn for an Iraqi withdrawal under the terms of an Arab solution that was discussed during the telephone conversation between his majesty and the Iraqi president.

It was also agreed between His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak that the Arab League would defer issuing a resolution on the invasion pending the success or failure of His Majesty King Husayn's mission to Baghdad. His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak also agreed that His Majesty King Husayn would discover the Iraqi leadership's position on two proposals; namely, an Iraqi commitment to withdraw from Kuwait as soon as possible, and Iraqi consent to attend an Arab mini-summit in Jeddah to discuss and settle all aspects of the Iraq-Kuwait dispute.

These proposals were enthusiastically endorsed by President Husni Mubarak, who placed his presidential G4 jet at the disposal of the Jordanian foreign minister to transfer him to Cairo to cooperate with the Egyptian foreign minister during the meeting of Arab foreign ministers, already in session in Cairo, with the aim of calming the foreign ministers of the Gulf states, who were insisting that the Arab League rapidly condemn Iraq.

On the following morning of 3 August 1990, His Majesty King Husayn flew to Baghdad—after a stopover of a few hours in Amman—where he met with President Saddam Husayn and secured his agreement on a solution to the crisis within an Arab context. He agreed with him that Iraq would attend an Arab mini-summit to be held in Jeddah on 5 August, which would include the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, and on the outline of a solution which His Majesty King Husayn had discussed with President Mubarak and King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, under terms of which Iraq would begin its earliest withdrawal at a date and time to be specified at the summit—in other words, within hours. Moreover, they agreed that President Saddam Husayn would inform His Majesty King Husayn of the details of the Iraqi position before his majesty's jet arrived at Amman's airport on its way back from Baghdad.

The Iraqi president was adamant that he would only respond positively to these proposals if the Arab League abstained from condemning Iraq, thus paving the way for outside intervention. On the same day, the Iraqi Government declared its intention to begin withdrawing its forces from Kuwait at 1900 on 3 August 1990.

At the same time His Majesty King Husayn was discussing the proposals jointly agreed upon between himself and President Mubarak, however, the Egyptian Government was issuing a statement condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Upon his return to Amman, his majesty called President Husni Mubarak to inform him of the agreement he had reached with President Saddam Husayn and to express his regret over the Egyptian statement.

Explaining the Egyptian position, President Mubarak said that he was under great pressure, and that he had spoken with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, who was very angry over the whole situation. President Mubarak informed King Husayn that he did not accept the agreement reached by His Majesty King Husayn and President Saddam Husayn, and that he insists on Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the immediate restoration of the Kuwaiti ruling family. With this statement, the Egyptian president adopted the same position as

the Arab League, which condemned the invasion of Kuwait and called for immediate Iraqi withdrawal. (Document I)

Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian representative to the Arab League meeting, had warned of the dangers of adopting the resolution at a time when efforts were being made by His Majesty King Husayn and other Arab leaders to pave the way for a mini-summit to contain the crisis. Despite this, late on the night of 3 August 1990, the resolution was adopted by a majority of 14 members. The Jordanian representative abstained from voting on this resolution and explained his abstention. (Document II)

The passage of this resolution foiled Jordan's efforts to arrange for a mini-summit, hardened the attitude of the Iraqi Government, paved the way for the Arab League to abandon any attempts to limit the crisis to the Arab fold, and opened the way for international demands for an unconditional and nonnegotiable Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The speed with which the resolution was adopted by the foreign ministers, and the change in President Mubarak's previous endorsement of the Jordanian initiative, appeared to indicate to the Jordanian Government that strong pressures had been brought to bear on the Egyptian Government, and that the Saudi Government—which had, up to that point, participated in and, in fact, encouraged the Jordanian efforts and had showed every sign of genuinely seeking a diplomatic resolution to the crisis—had also been subjected to strong pressure, together with other Arab states.

Jordanian anxiety over the course of events was further intensified by the return of Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim on the same day His Majesty King Husayn was meeting with his aides. Al- Qasim was carrying with him the text of the draft resolution prepared by the Arab foreign ministers at the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Cairo, which condemned Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait. His majesty's immediate reaction was that the resolution was a prelude to the internationalization of the crisis, opening the way for foreign intervention, rather than allowing a solution to the crisis within the Arab context—a prognosis which turned out to be accurate.

From this point onward, the aggravation and escalation of the conflict gained momentum. Every Jordanian attempt to break the impetus toward war was foiled. The final abandonment by the Arab League of its role as a valve for Arab security came at the emergency Arab summit meeting called by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on 8 August 1990. The meeting took place on 10 August 1990. His Majesty King Husayn attended the meeting. Attempts to revive Arab mediation efforts were brushed aside, and the text of a resolution already prepared, and probably drafted outside the meeting, was pushed through quickly. The resolution repeated the previous condemnation of Iraq and responded affirmatively to the request from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states for Arab forces to help "defend their territories and regional security against any outside aggression." (Document III)

Article 6 of the Arab League Charter stipulates that in case of aggression by one state against another, resolutions must be adopted by a unanimous vote. In Jordan's view, both the resolution adopted at the ministerial level on 3 August 1990, and the resolution adopted on 10 August 1990, did not conform with Article 6. Jordan and some other Arab countries saw the latter resolution as a cover for foreign intervention before an Arab resolution to the conflict could be found. Jordan, therefore, abstained from voting.

The deployment of the international coalition's massive land, sea, and air forces to Saudi Arabia was widely perceived in the region as a major step toward the implementation of a plan to destroy Iraq's military and industrial capacity. These suspicions had already been aroused by what, contextually, appeared to have been a systematic campaign by the Western media, extending over a period of at least two years prior to the crisis, to create the impression that the Iraqi Government was planning to become the dominant power in the Middle East, and to attack Israel in particular.

As a reaction to what it saw as the sinister unfolding of an international conspiracy, Iraq retained the citizens of a number of foreign countries, thereby adding to the dimension of the crisis, committing another breach of international law, and creating a climate of fear and uncertainty among the large foreign population in Iraq and the Gulf. As a result, hundreds of thousands of refugees flooded into Jordan, thus adding to the country's already grave problems.

The imposition of sanctions on Iraq by Security Council Resolution No. 661 on 6 August 1990, followed by the further imposition of a total maritime, land, and air blockade under the terms of Resolution No. 665 on 25 August 1990, had a disastrous impact on the economic and financial situation of Jordan.

The port of al-'Aqabah, Jordan's only outlet to the sea, was arbitrarily blockaded by the coalition's naval forces, although ports in other countries with access to Iraq were not similarly treated. Trade with Iraq, Jordan's main market and source of petroleum products (which had been in repayment of debts to Jordan) was reduced to a standstill.

Jordan thus received severe economic punishment for actions to which it was not a party, and this situation, along with the presence of hundreds of thousands of new refugees flooding across its border, created an atmosphere of severe tension that might well have exploded had the government not adopted a position of neutrality and resistance to outside pressure from the beginning of the crisis.

The Armed Forces of Jordan, having been placed on maximum alert, were instructed to confront any violation of Jordan's airspace and territory, and all parties were informed of this stance. His Majesty King Husayn later described the period as one highly dangerous to the country, which was subjected to great pressures and threats. The Jordanian people, however, survived the crisis with their morale high and their charter intact.

From the beginning of the crisis, the Jordanian Government made it very clear that it rejected the acquisition of territory by force (Document IV). Throughout the crisis, Jordan strove to maintain a delicate balance between respect for Security Council resolutions and the need for a diplomatic solution. Resolution No. 660, issued on 2 August, provided the basis for a peaceful settlement in Paragraph 3, which called "upon Iraq and Kuwait to begin intensive negotiations immediately for the resolution of their differences and to support all efforts in this regard and especially those of the Arab League member states." Jordan's interpretation of the resolution was that "unconditional withdrawal" in the language of diplomacy does not exclude prior understanding of subsequent arrangements (Document V). Unfortunately, Paragraph 3 was consistently disregarded by the Security Council member states which participated in the international coalition.

Although Jordan saw as regrettable the emergency Arab League meeting's adoption on 10 August 1990 of the decision to send Arab forces to join the international coalition against Iraq, it continued its efforts to seek an Arab solution, along with members of the Arab League which shared its viewpoint. These efforts were exerted in two directions:

First: Jordan held contacts with the major members of the international coalition aimed at persuading them of the importance of dialogue rather than confrontation with Iraq.

Second: Jordan held intensive contacts with the Arab governments which shared the Jordanian point of view and with the Iraqi Government to try to find a compromise which might enable the Iraqi Government to remove any reason for the massive presence of foreign forces in the region, by withdrawing from Kuwait.

After the Arab summit on 10 August, His Majesty King Husayn went to Baghdad on 13 August and then almost immediately to the United States, where he met with President George Bush on 16 August. During that visit, his majesty had the impression that the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia and the region aimed at defending Saudi Arabia and that these troops, together with other troops, were only serving a defensive role. The U.S. stand on the absolute need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait was clear and in full agreement with the Jordanian stand. Because there was no evidence that Iraq had harbored any hostile intentions toward Saudi Arabia, His Majesty King Husayn felt there was an opportunity which must be utilized to redouble efforts and reach a peaceful solution to the whole problem. In his majesty's view, that objective became tantamount to a sacred duty in the interest of peace and all concerned. On the same day, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan met a delegation from the "Council of Europe" and explained Jordan's clear position to the delegation members. (Document VI)

Between 23 and 29 August, His Majesty King Husayn visited Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, and Morocco. His majesty also visited Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Italy between 30 August and 5 September. In each of the European countries, King Husayn met with its leaders and explained to them the Jordanian Government's view on the roots and causes of the crisis, the current situation, and the means to arrive at a peaceful and just solution to the crisis. In all these countries—with the exception of Great Britain—His Majesty King Husayn was encouraged to continue his mediation mission. (Document VII)

Encouraged by further signs from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the effect that Iraq was prepared to seek an honorable compromise and accept a negotiated, but not imposed, settlement; and by European support for additional attempts at Arab mediation, His Majesty King Husayn decided to undertake a new initiative in collaboration with his excellency the Algerian president and his majesty the Moroccan king. On 19 September 1990, His Majesty King Hassan hosted a meeting in Rabat which was attended by His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty King Husayn. On 22 September, His Majesty King Husayn addressed a letter to His Excellency Saddam Husayn. (Document VIII)

Among all the Jordanian efforts to achieve an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, His Majesty King Husayn's letter to President Saddam Husayn stands out as the most significant. In the letter, His Majesty King Husayn articulated the fears felt by himself and the Arab community that beneath the problem between Iraq and Kuwait lay designs against Arab resources and land, and that the crisis may become a trap into which Iraq was about to fall. The letter pointed to the dangers of a military confrontation, not only to Iraq, but also to the entire Arab nation. It also stressed to President Saddam Husayn that Jordan and other Arab states could not accept the acquisition of territory by war, not only as a matter of principle, but also because failure to uphold that principle could constitute a serious precedent, of which Israel would take advantage. Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait could not be tolerated. Reversal would not be a defeat for Iraq, but, on the contrary, a gain for Iraq and the Arab world as a whole. In this case, the Iraqi people's achievements over two decades would remain intact and the world's attention would be drawn to the need to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor Arab states (something which would always remain a legitimate pan-Arab demand and objective). Furthermore, the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait may, in a legitimate way, help to attain the objectives the demands

of which were behind the current crisis. It may also force the world community to face its responsibilities regarding the Palestinian problem and deprive the enemies of the Arabs the opportunity to exploit their differences.

The King's letter stressed that these gains could be made if a peaceful resolution of the crisis within an Arab framework were achieved. Such a resolution would respect the Kuwaiti right to self-determination, confirm Iraq's constant assertion that no Arab force should be used against fellow Arabs, show that Iraq's occupation was an act of self-defense against an inflexible position, and not just expansionism or a wish for hegemony. It would rectify the wrong, contain the crisis, and pave the way for its resolution.

The letter asked for President Saddam's answer to a number of questions which would enable the three heads of state to attempt mediation between the parties to the conflict. Among these questions are: What were the specific and feasible demands of Iraq from Kuwait in relation to the joint border? What is Iraq's need for access to the Gulf? What about the issue of compensation for oil taken from the al-Rumaylah field?, besides other claims.

The letter ended with a plea for President Saddam to respond positively to the efforts of the three heads of state to mediate between Iraq and Kuwait, and to restore relations with other states in the Gulf, already sufficiently alarmed by what had taken place to fall, alongside Iraq, into the coils of a vast and overwhelming foreign military presence.

President Saddam's reply to His Majesty King Husayn's letter was carried to Amman by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz on 29 September 1990. Although the reply message agreed with the Jordanian analysis of the background to the crisis, it expressed surprise at some of the views put forward. For example, it did not agree with the presentation of the choices before Iraq; the question his majesty put to President Saddam should have been directed at the other party. The message asked: What did they want from Iraq? If the alternative to not replying to the Jordanian questions was war, then Iraq took up the challenge. This would not be a disaster for Iraq as his majesty warned in his letter, but for the United States and its allies. The message added that President Saddam was prepared to accept one of two possible solutions to the crisis: An Arab solution in which the two parties would sit down together and thus settle their differences, as His Majesty had proposed during his visit to Baghdad on 3 August 1990. The alternative solution was an international one, as Iraq proposed on 12 August 1990 when it called for convening an international conference at which not only the question of Kuwait would be discussed, but also the problems of Palestine and Lebanon—and all resolved on the same basis of respect for international legitimacy. That proposal had been immediately rejected by both the United States and Great Britain.

Within the framework of this solution, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn agreed to attend the mini-summit, which was foiled by some parties that would have attended it, according to what the Iraqi president said in his message of reply. He also reiterated his readiness to find an Arab solution to the crisis.

President Saddam Husayn agreed with the argument presented by His Majesty King Husayn, that the rejection of the acquisition of territory by war should be respected as a matter of principle, but that it should then apply to all cases and not be confined to the case of Kuwait. By invading Kuwait, President Saddam's intention had been to put the international community face to face with its obligations with respect to the Palestinian question; he had succeeded in this and revealed the true intentions of the United States and its ally, Israel. In his view, these two states had designs on the Arab countries which they were promoting before the invasion of Kuwait, and would have gone on promoting even if there had been no invasion.

The Iraqi president insisted that Kuwait was the symptom and not the cause of the crisis. The linkage between the invasion of Kuwait and the Palestinian problem had not been produced by Iraq to rally support among the Palestinians and others for the Iraqi stand, or to confuse the issues; it was the issue, and this had been the central theme of President Saddam's public and private statements at Arab meetings for a long time.

The Jordanian-Moroccan-Algerian effort at mediation had not succeeded, but the Jordanian Government perceived the danger of escalating the crisis and now concentrated on its attempt to avert the use of military force by the international coalition.

In September 1990, His Majesty King Husayn addressed a message to the U.S. people, clearly defining the Jordanian position (Document VIII). In that message, His Majesty King Husayn said: Jordan believes in the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, and continues to recognize the State and Government of Kuwait. It also recognizes the sovereign right of Saudi Arabia to seek assistance from friendly states and the right of the U.S. Administration to respond to that request. The message called for an end to the presence of U.S. and allied forces on Saudi soil within the shortest possible time. The crisis was not born in a vacuum, but had its origins in a complex of causes with three interrelated dimensions:

The first dimension was the border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait, which is an old one. The present Iraqi regime was the first to have sought a negotiated settlement which would have secured for Iraq independent access to the Gulf and a final delineation of the disputed frontiers.

The second dimension was regional. The lack of progress in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the failure to implement Security Council Resolution 242 based, like Resolution 660, on the inadmissibility of the acquisition

of land by force, embittered Arab public opinion and caused it to question the motives behind the U.S. zeal to implement Security Council Resolution 660, dated 2 August 1990, and subsequent resolutions. The United States had always advised the Arabs to accept a negotiated settlement and to accept compromise and the Arabs had responded positively; now they perceived the United States as unwilling even to consider a negotiated settlement between Iraq and Kuwait, and equally unwilling to accept any solution short of an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal.

The third dimension of the crisis was the nature of relations between the Middle East and the rest of the world. In the new world order which has emerged since the end of the cold war, the region should not be marginalized. Substantial Arab input into a diplomatic solution to the crisis was necessary because otherwise it would be regarded as a solution imposed from outside the area, and its legitimacy would be questioned.

Although His Majesty King Husayn was clearly an apologist for peace and not for Iraq, his advice was not well received. Thus, an orchestrated campaign was launched to misrepresent Jordan as the ally and supporter of Iraq, and to urge the U.S. Administration to substitute military action for the sanctions imposed on Iraq by the Security Council. That campaign succeeded in souring relations between the United States and Jordan, and in helping to effect a radical change in the direction of U.S. policy. U.S. forces, which had originally been sent to Saudi Arabia with the explicit mission of defending that territory from Iraqi attack, were now reinforced by a massive offensive capability to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. The dispatch of these land, sea, and air forces by President Bush in early October 1990 was followed by an intensive campaign to pressure the members of the international coalition and of the Security Council to accept a new resolution (678) sanctioning the use of all necessary means to uphold and implement all previous relevant resolutions on or before 15 January 1991.

The Jordanian Government viewed this radical shift, led by the United States, as a prelude to an inevitable military confrontation, the consequences of which would be disastrous for Iraq, Kuwait, and the entire region. Following its failure to organize an Arab solution, the Jordanian Government's efforts were now extended to seek the aid of European countries and the Soviet Union to avert the specter of confrontation.

The Jordanian efforts were exerted in two directions. In the first, the Jordanian leadership continued to employ all the influence it had with Iraq to secure the release of foreign nationals held in Iraq and Kuwait since the middle of August 1990. Following a visit by His Majesty King Husayn to Baghdad on 4 December, Iraq announced its intention to release all foreign nationals.

In the second direction, Jordan endeavored to encourage the European governments within the coalition and the Soviet Union to undertake initiatives to persuade the Iraqi Government to take the necessary steps to avoid the danger of resorting to force, as sanctioned—according to the interpretation of some—by the Security Council in its Resolution 678 of 29 November 1990. The French and the Soviets supported this Jordanian endeavor. During a meeting between His Excellency President Mitterrand and His Majesty King Husayn in Paris on 5 November, the French president indicated his preference for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. He also expressed the hope that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn would help France and the Soviet Union sponsor a peace initiative. He said that such an initiative could only be undertaken if His Excellency President Saddam Husayn announced his intention to withdraw, and that France had no hostile intentions toward Iraq but would not forgo decisions it had taken with its allies.

As the 15 January deadline approached, the Jordanian authorities doubled their efforts to persuade the European members of the international coalition to avert a military confrontation with Iraq and warned of the political, human, and ecological consequences of a war. In an address to the Second World Climate Conference in Geneva, His Majesty King Husayn outlined the potential destructive impact on the environment if the oil fields in the Gulf were set on fire and the threats to the climate in the Middle East. He also pointed to the wide-ranging repercussions on human and animal health and food production. Later events were to prove that these warnings were accurate. (Document IX)

In a subsequent address to graduates of the Military Staff College in Amman on 9 December, His Majesty King Husayn warned that "...our Arab region now stands on the verge of a destructive war. This war, God forbid that it should happen, will result in a major tragedy which will affect not only our present, but also our future. It will also cause a severe international economic crisis, a potential environmental catastrophe, and deep wounds that would bring about long-lasting instability to a large area of this world." In the same address, His Majesty King Husayn formulated Jordan's proposals for the settlement of regional problems on a permanent and firm basis. (Document X)

Between the end of December 1990 and 15 January 1991, the Jordanian Government multiplied its contacts with leaders and representatives of all major powers and many other members of the international coalition. It also encouraged the member states of the European Community to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, although such a meeting did not take place. The Jordanian Government also welcomed the announcement by President George Bush after the adoption of Resolution 678 by the Security Council on 29 November, that he was sending the U.S. secretary of state to Baghdad. Great hopes were pinned on the meeting which finally took place between Secretary Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva on 9 January.

After five months, however, during which no dialogue between Iraq and the United States took place, and given the restrictions imposed on negotiations in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, no one expected the meeting to end in anything other than failure—especially since both sides entered into the negotiations with different objectives.

Between 2 and 10 January 1991, His Majesty King Husayn visited London, Bonn, Luxembourg and Rome, and met with the British prime minister; the president, chancellor, and foreign minister of Germany; the duke, prime minister, and foreign minister of Luxembourg; and the president, prime minister, and foreign minister of Italy.

In all these meetings, His Majesty King Husayn tirelessly cautioned against the consequences of war, and urged all to exert a final effort to spare the region from the catastrophes of war by offering Iraq a way to extricate itself from the corner it had been hemmed into by the hard stand of the international coalition on one hand, and by its own misperception of the reality of the dangers it was facing on the other.

This message of caution was also delivered to the UN secretary general during his passage through Amman en route to Baghdad on 11 January 1991, in an attempt to persuade the Iraqi authorities to accept an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait as a way to avert the use to force by the coalition after the expiration of the 15 January 1991 deadline. This endeavor also failed, as did the French Government's attempt on 14 January 1991 to get the president of the Security Council to issue a statement which could have averted the imminent war. The proposal was met with the opposition of both the U.S. and British governments, by now determined to implement fully Resolution 678 (adopted on 29 November 1990) which, as they claimed, authorized them to resort to force independently of any UN military command.

When His Majesty King Husayn realized that all his efforts to avert the outbreak of war had failed, his majesty addressed the Jordanian people on 15 January 1991. His majesty cautioned (Document XI) that the region was on the brink of an abyss "now that the doors of reason have been shut and the avenues for an honest dialogue blocked." King Husayn had done everything within his power to achieve a political settlement of the crisis, and his conscience was clear. He cautioned against the dangers facing Jordan, and expressed his confidence in the Jordanian Armed Forces—the Arab Army—which would protect the land and the skies of the country and "repulse whoever tries to enter Jordan from any direction."

The failure of all attempts to persuade the Iraqi Government to take steps to avert the implementation of Resolution 678 (adopted on 29 November 1990), and the failure of all attempts to induce the coalition leaders into a more flexible stand, inevitably led to the onset of military operations against Iraq through devastatingly massive air raids on civilian as well as military targets over the entire country. As the scale of destruction mounted, the reaction of the Jordanian people to what was happening to the Iraqi people increased violently. Scenes of ruin in Iraqi cities and towns, and of the frightful suffering inflicted on the Iraqi people by barbaric air bombardments, increased the Jordanians' sympathy for the Iraqis and their anger at the countries and governments that had gone far beyond the mandate to liberate Kuwait and who were destroying Iraq.

The bombing of vehicles carrying vital oil supplies to Jordan from Iraq and the loss of Jordanian lives under bombardment from the coalition's planes added to this tide of anger. These feelings were expressed by His Majesty King Husayn in his address to the nation on 6 February 1991 (Document XII) in which he reiterated his belief that Jordanian and other Arab efforts to end the crisis peacefully had been deliberately blocked because "the real purpose behind this destructive war, as proven by the scope of destruction, is to destroy Iraq and rearrange the area in a manner far more dangerous to our nation's present and future than the Sykes-Picot agreement."

Having failed to avert the outbreak of war, Jordan's efforts were now directed at bringing it to a rapid end and to prevent the ground offensive. Once again, an intense series of contacts between the Jordanian authorities and world leaders were conducted with a view to persuade the Iraqi regime to withdraw from Kuwait in compliance with Security Council resolutions and avert a final ground battle. His majesty welcomed the Iraqi proposals made on 15 February to withdraw from Kuwait as part of a general settlement of the crisis, but these proposals were immediately dismissed by the U.S. President and British prime minister as a "cruel hoax." The Soviet proposals for an end to hostilities and to secure a peace settlement met with the same fate, and were dismissed by the U.S. President as being inadequate to meet U.S. requirements. On 22 February 1991, His Majesty King Husayn made a desperate attempt to prevent the final ground offensive and sent a letter to French President Mitterrand in which he urged him to "lend France's moral weight and important support to the Soviet initiative." (Document XIII) By now, however, it was too late to stop the machinery of the coalition's design to evict Iraq from Kuwait. The invasion not only of Kuwait but also of southern Iraq ended the war at a terrible cost to Iraq's forces and to the civilian populations of both Iraq and Kuwait, as well as to the region's environment. But the end of the war did not bring the beginning of peace.

On 1 March 1991, his majesty addressed a final message of hope and reconciliation to the nation. This address summed up the growth of the crisis from its beginning to the end of the war—and the position of the Jordanian Government. Among other things, his majesty said: "Our vision was clear from the outset of the disaster. We realized what the outcome would be if Iraq continued its

occupation of Kuwait and if we failed to resolve the problem peacefully within the Arab framework. We tried our utmost to address and contain the problem in its early days and at all subsequent stages before the outbreak of war out of our concern about the supreme pan-Arab interests and in view of our commitment to lofty principles. We were not successful."

"After Iraq and Kuwait, Jordan had suffered most from the crisis."

"We did not bear a grudge toward anyone, however, nor did we blame anyone. We knew we would pay dearly for standing on principle and for insisting on maintaining our freedom of action within the national context, due to our geographic location."

In an analytical view of the future, his majesty expressed his belief that "we in Jordan are confident that the Arab people have a greater sense of solidarity and harmony than the recent crisis suggests. They are capable of overcoming the causes of division and fragmentation which we have always cautioned against. Popular participation in the framework of democratic institutions is the guarantor of upholding that solidarity among people, just as responsible freedom and respect for human rights and human dignity are the guarantors that prevent decisionmakers from following the path of adventurism. For it is through the widespread adoption of democracy in the Arab countries that we can best save our nation from the pitfalls of unwarranted conflict." (Document XIV)

While the Gulf crisis was on, Jordan was subjected to severe strains on its economic and financial stability, but its political and social stability was not disrupted at any point. The identification between the concerns of the people and the policies of the government enabled the country to emerge safely from the dangers it had faced. A further step in the process of establishing national consensus was taken by the promulgation in June 1991 of the National Charter drawn up by a royal commission on which all sectors of the people were represented. In an address to the National Congress which endorsed the charter on 9 June 1991, His Majesty King Husayn drew the lessons of the Gulf crisis, of which the principal one was that "democracy is the pillar of national security." The three basic components of democracy he defined as the separation of the executive, legislative, and judicial powers; free elections; and political pluralism. And the framework of Jordan's national life was freedom, "the basis of dialogue, of truth, and of democracy." (Document XV) [passage omitted containing background documents]

### Egypt To Provide 90 U.S. Tanks, Train Troops

*NC1109121391 Paris AFP in English 0944 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 11 (AFP)—Egypt will give Lebanon 90 U.S.-made tanks as a gift to help the war-torn nation rebuild its army, a United Arab Emirates newspaper reported on Wednesday.

AL-KHALIJ said the M-60 tanks, which were deployed by the U.S in Europe, would enable Lebanon to create its first armoured brigade since a 15-year-old civil war crippled its military structure.

Egypt received tanks free from the United States, which has agreed to the offer and will pay the cost of shipping them to Beirut, AL-KHALIJ said in its front-page report from Cairo.

Lebanon has sought Arab and foreign assistance to rebuild its armed forces and war-damaged facilities since an Arab-sponsored agreement halted civil strife a year ago.

AL-KHALIJ said Cairo had also agreed to train 1,000 Lebanese troops and officers, although the offer did not include the air force "due to reservations" by Syria, which still maintains forces in Lebanon.

"Syrian-Lebanese negotiations are underway on this issue," the paper added, but did not mention the reason for Syrian objections.

### U.S. Refuses To Receive Presidential Delegation

*NC1109104691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Citing sources, AL-NIDA' today says that the U.S. Administration has refused to receive the Lebanese presidential delegation [President al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Karami, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker al-Husayni] in a private meeting at the White House and that the administration thinks a meeting between the delegation and U.S. President George Bush as a side bar to the UN General Assembly meeting in New York would suffice. This left a preliminary impression about the extent of the U.S. interest in the Lebanese requests, particularly the request to help Lebanon attain its national sovereignty by exerting pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 425.

According to AL-NIDA', the sources said the absence of clear and final responses from the U.S. Administration to Lebanon's requests regarding assistance and the Israeli occupation was the reason behind the declaration which said the White House had previous engagements that did not allow it to receive the Lebanese presidential delegation. The sources added: This could lead to frustrating many of the steps for which the Lebanese Government is exerting great efforts to achieve as soon as possible, particularly the hostage issue, which apparently is not put on the front burner despite the contacts being made by the concerned parties. The sources indicated that by not seeking a quick resolution of this issue, the U.S. objective is to postpone foreign economic aid to Lebanon, which has been dependent on the resolution of the hostage issue.

### Khonsari Discusses Hostage Issue With al-Husayni

*NC1009163191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Mohammad Khonsari, director of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, accompanied by a senior high-level delegation, has visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. After the meeting, Khonsari said that assistance by other parties is needed to resolve the hostage crisis. He asserted that Iran is interested in concluding this humanitarian issue and accused the United States and Israel of hindering a solution. He said that his meetings with Hizballah officials have been set up to discuss the current Lebanese and Palestinian issues that concern the region.

The Iranian delegation invited Speaker al-Husayni to visit Iran and attend, with a Lebanese parliamentary delegation, a conference in support of the Palestinian issue which will be held on 22 October.

### Israelis Said Building Roads, Reinforcing South

*NC1109074091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli enemy forces are building military roads east of the town of Shab'a and its forces on Bra'shit hill have been reinforced during the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, a number of the families who remained in Bra'shit abandoned their town. The roads leading to the town have become dangerous and the town's displaced people have called for the Army's deployment there as soon as possible and for pressuring Israel to withdraw from Bra'shit hill.

In another development, the fire that broke out in the olive groves in al-Hasbani area as a result of Israeli shelling has destroyed many of the trees, which are more than 50 years old. Losses have been estimated at $300,000.

### Gunmen Open Fire on Minister al-Amin's Home

*NC1109071391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Unidentified gunmen riding in a Mercedes opened fire last night on the house of Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin in the town of al-Sawwanah.

According to a source in the emergency forces [quwat al-tawari'], a patrol was sent to the town as soon as the shooting was heard. The patrol found that one of the guards had been injured and taken to Tibnin hospital for treatment.

### Afghan Vice President Arrives To Convey Message

*JN0609135591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Sep 91*

[Text] Afghan Vice President 'Abdul Rahim Hatif arrived in Damascus at 0930 today on a visit to Syria. Heading those welcoming him at Damascus International Airport was Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah. He was also welcomed by a number of ministers, the Asia desk chief at the Foreign Ministry, and the Afghan ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Hatif said that he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Afghan President Najibullah. He added that during his visit he will hold talks with Syrian officials on strengthening relations, exchanging viewpoints, and consulting on issues of mutual interest.

Concluding his statement, Hatif stressed the profound friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries and peoples.

#### Concludes Visit, Departs

*JN1009190591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] Afghan Vice President 'Abdul Rahim Hatif and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus today following a visit of several days to Syria, during which he conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Afghan President Najibullah. [passage omitted]

### Al-Zu'bi, German Delegation Discuss Cooperation

*JN0909140991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Excerpts] At 1030 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Mr. (Fred Heilmust), head of the German parliament's Economic Affairs Committee, and the members of the delegation visiting Syria. [passage omitted]

After reviewing the friendly relations between the Syrian and German people, which have constantly grown, al-Zu'bi asserted that Syrian-German cooperation is developing, and that positive horizons to promote and deepen this cooperation are also expanding, especially in economic, commercial, and technical fields, in the interest of both countries.

Al-Zu'bi also explained to the German parliamentary delegation the bases of Syria's economic and developmental policy, to which the public, private, and mixed sectors contribute. He pointed to the wide investment trends that Syria is seeking to introduce.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi said that Syria, which is concerned with solidifying regional bases of security and stability, supports all international and Arab endeavors to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

#### Group Concludes Visit, Departs

*JN1009164991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] Damascus, 10 Sep (SANA)—The German parliamentary delegation headed by Fred Heilmust [name as received], head of the German parliament's Economic Affairs Committee, left Damascus today concluding a four-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

### Israel Said Opting for 'Armament, Aggression'

*JN0609063191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 6 Sep 91*

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH today writes on Israel's hostile attitude to peace. The paper says: At a time when the world—especially the United States, the Soviet Union, and the European Community—is trying to achieve peace in the Middle East on the basis of international legitimacy, as demonstrated by the UN Charter and resolutions, the Israeli Government announces a 4 billion-shekel increase in its military budget for 1991-92.

AL-THAWRAH says the timing of the announcement about the military budget increase to coincide with the continuing peace efforts and the approaching date for the international conference has one specific meaning. Israel has chosen one option: Armament and aggression, and not the search for peace and providing its requirements.

The paper adds: If Israel has said its final word on peace and the peace efforts by declaring that it clings to everything that contradicts peace and to the option of armament and aggression, the world, particularly the United States, must also say its final word on Israel's challenges and continued disregard of its will, charters, and unanimity about peace in the region. The paper says: We do not think that the world's final word in the face of Israeli challenges will be anything but to hold Israel responsible for obstructing the peace efforts and to take appropriate measures to deter its intransigence. Heading these measures should be reconsideration of its membership in the United Nations and a halt to all Western, especially American, aid, without which it could not have been able to escape peace and its requirements and go for impossible conditions and armament and aggression.

## Afghanistan

### Najibollah Meets USSR Supreme Soviet Group

*LD1009170991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The Press Office of the Presidency reported to us that Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, received the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, which is on a friendly visit in Kabul, at the headquarters of the Presidence this afternoon.

During the meeting President Najibollah spoke about the circumstances of the implementation of national reconciliation policy, recent developments in the country, the efforts of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan for the cessation of war, and the ensuring of complete national peace and the support of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan for the UN secretary general's five- point plan on the political solution of the Afghan problem.

Noting the historic and traditional relations and friendship and cooperation between the people of the two countries, which is based on respect for independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of one another and on the principle of mutual cooperation between our countries, the esteemed president expressed confidence that the cooperation and relations, which conformed with all accepted international norms and principle, should consolidate and expand in the future too.

In response the Soviet Union's delegation briefed the esteemed president of the Republic of Afghanistan on recent developments and changes in that country. The delegation expressed the gratitude and pleasure of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union and the leadership of that country for the principled and realistic stance of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan about changes in the Soviet Union.

Touching on documents approved by the Congress of People's Deputies of the Soviet Union, according to which the Soviet state will observe without deviation all its international undertakings and agreements, the delegation asserted: Afghan-Soviet aid and cooperation, which are based on bilateral agreements and protocols and mutual interests will continue in the future as well. It hopes they will expand because the continuation of those cooperation is in the interest of the people of the two countries.

Mohammad Ishaq Bakhtiar, aide of the president of Afghanistan, and Boris Pastuhkov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul, were also present at the meeting.

### Soviet Envoy Assures Khaliqyar of Continued Aid

*LD1009204891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The press department of the prime minister reports that esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, this morning received His Excellency Boris N. Pastukhov, Soviet ambassador and represntative extraordinary for a meeting at the prime minister's building.

Technical and economic cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting. The Soviet ambassador in Kabul informed the esteemed prime minster that in accordance with a decision of the recent USSR Congress People's Deputies, all international pledges including economic assistance to foreign countries, among them the Republic of Afghanistan, will be met and honored.

The ambassador assured esteemed Khaliqyar that economic and technical cooperation of the Soviet Union with the Republic of Afghanistan will continue as before on the basis of previously concluded agreements, protocols and treaties. He said that the delivery of oil products to the Afghan side at Hayratan Port has resumed on this basis.

### Hekmatyar Accuses Iran of Terrorism, Interference

*BK1109103891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 11 (AFP)—Fundamentalist Afghan rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami faction Wednesday launched a bitter attack on Iran, accusing it of state terrorism and of interfering in Afghan affairs.

The accusations by the Sunni rebel group's AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) followed an August 28 article in the Iranian newspaper KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL, which blamed Hekmatyar for mojahedin disunity and said "a brave Afghan rebel should put an end to his disgraceful existence."

The ANA, citing several mojahedin commanders, said the article was evidence of a plot by Tehran, whose "past record ... is ample proof that the Iranian regime is involved in state terrorism."

"The mojahedin will not accept such threats, such pressure and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan," it added.

The agency said that if the administration in Tehran was not behind the threats to Hekmatyar, "it should immediately come out with an official clarification, apologise and impose a ban on the publication of KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL."

The Iranian newspaper, which is considered as having close ties with Islamic hardliners in Tehran, accused the

Hezb-e-Eslami of inflicting "more casualties upon the mojahedin than the Russian and Kabul troops."

The paper had made its remarks as a meeting on the future of Afghanistan, boycotted by Hekmatyar, opened in the Iranian capital.

"Iran cannot restore its lost image or force the Afghans to accept an imposed solution of the Afghanistan problem," the ANA warned, accusing Tehran of "blatant intervention" and of putting pressure on Afghan guerrilla factions based in Iran and Pakistan.

The Hezb-e-Eslami made its accusations the day before Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's departure Thursday for Tehran, where he is due to meet Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss Afghanistan.

The faction, which long received protection from Pakistan and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, is today isolated at the Sunni rebels' base in Pakistan.

Tehran supports a minority of Afghan Shiite rebels.

### Hekmatyar Sees 'No Possibility' of Peace

*PM1009130191 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 91 pp 1, 4*

[Interview with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Afghan Hezbe Eslami-Gulbuddin party, by Jamal Isma'il in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Isma'il] Do you believe that recent clashes between the Hezbe Eslami and Jama'at al-Da'wah [as transliterated] in Konarha were instigated by a foreign party?

[Hekmatyar] We condemn these clashes and believe that they were a local, internal incident. We did not want matters to reach such a stage. What happened was that the Jama'at al-Da'wah rejected the election results in the province last year on the pretext that they were forged. It unilaterally announced the establishment of an Islamic leadership in Konarha. That leadership embarked on expelling the six parties participating in the interim government from the province. And some four months ago it expelled the party's mujahidin from their positions and moved them out on the pretext that they were bandits and drug traffickers—the same accusation which the Kabul government is leveling at the mujahidin and which it leveled in the past at Shaykh Jamilorrahman, may God have mercy on him. [passage omitted]

[Isma'il] How do you visualize a solution to the Konarha problem?

[Hekmatyar] As we said in the past: forming a joint administration from all the parties, allowing everyone to participate in it, returning the positions and weapons to its people, and suspending Jama'at al-Da'wah's media campaign against all the parties. This is in addition to Jama'at al-Da'wah's adherence to last year's election results, which it rejected.

[Isma'il] Some people blame the Hezbe Eslami for the murder of Shaykh Jamilurrahman.

[Hekmatyar] We were against that assassination. We regarded Shaykh Jamil as a struggling brother and scholar despite his disagreement with and split from the party. And we are awaiting the outcome of the committees investigating this case. Those who want to deepen disputes among the mujahidin are likely to be behind the crime. But there is a question: Why was the perpetrator of the crime killed after he was caught alive instead of being interrogated?

[Isma'il] Why did THE TEHRAN TIMES call for your murder?

[Hekmatyar] I do not think that the subject arose by coincidence. But it will take time to find out who is behind it and what it is intended for. However, I can say that Iran was angry at the party's position of refusing to participate in the Tehran conference, which failed as a result of the boycott by the party and other parties led by Abdorrasul Saiyaf and Shaykh Yunis Khalis.

And I believe that there are some fanatics in the Iranian leadership who believe that the establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan would pose a threat to Iran. Perhaps these are the factors behind the matters mentioned in the press. And perhaps, in view of its move toward the West and its attempt to improve its image and its growing relations with the United States, Iran was trying to dissociate itself from "extremists" and so is attacking them. In the past Iran used to demand the heads of the arrogant in order to appease Muslims, but it is now demanding the heads of Muslims in order to appease the arrogant in the world.

[Isma'il] Did you know about previous Iranian plans to liquidate you?

[Hekmatyar] Until some years ago we though that a number of mujahidin leaders were on an Islamic state's list. The list included 'Abdallah 'Azzam [as transliterated], Jamilorrahman, and Hekmatyar. Two have been martyred and I am still alive. In the past we did not mention that state's name, but the information available to us and to the Jama'at al-Da'wah points to Iran.

[Isma'il] Do you believe that Iran seeks to partition Afghanistan?

[Hekmatyar] Yes, some Iranians want to partition Afghanistan and they are negotiating with Moscow over that. And they agree to a coalition government with Najib. And they would accept Najib's government instead of the mujahidin government. And they have started to send food supplies to the Najib regime after they were suspended by Moscow, that is despite their announcement last month in Islamabad that they believed in the need to topple it.

[Isma'il] Is a peaceful settlement possible?

[Hekmatyar] I see no possibility of a peaceful settlement. I expect the issue to be settled militarily. The Najib government is about to collapse and its position is very bad. The Najib government's key figures do not think that it will last longer than a few days. Disputes are reaching alarming proportions in Kabul within the regime's leadership. And Najib twice in one week requested the Party's Central Committee to convene, but no one attended. The regime's leaders believe that Najib wants the present situation to continue, but they want to reach an understanding with the mujahidin that would save their lives. And these days we expect something major to occur in Kabul at any moment. [passage omitted]

### Bomb Explosion Kills 2 in Mojahedin Territory

*BK1009124691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 10 (AFP)—A bomb explosion left two people dead and 20 injured Tuesday in Afghan rebel-held territory close to the border with Pakistan, mojahedin sources here said.

The blast occured in a small market about 90 metres (100 yards) from the Pakistani Torkham border post, a resistance leader said, adding that three seriously injured people were brought to Peshawar for medical treatment.

### Kabul Commander Doubts Mojahedin Threat Increased

*BK1009132091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Kabul, Sept 10 (AFP)—A senior Afghan defence official said Tuesday he had "no worries" about being able to fend off a mojahedin rebel offensive on Kabul and the Afghan city of Gardeyz.

"As the commander whose duty it is to protect the city of Kabul, I have no worries to this effect," said Nabi Azimi, a four-star general, commander of the Kabul garrison and deputy defence minister.

Azimi was speaking to foreign reporters here on recent reports from Islamabad saying some Pakistani-backed mojahedin commanders planned to take advantage of the perceived weakness of Kabul after the failed Soviet coup to launch attacks.

"Every year Gulbuddin (Hekmatyar, a Pakistani-backed mojahedin commander powerful in eastern Afghanistan) resorts to seasonal offensives," Azimi said.

"I don't see any sign, qualitatively or quantitatively, that the situation has changed (from failed attacks in the past) in such a way that it could result in the collapse of Kabul."

He added that the government had confirmed reports of large amounts of money being funnelled into the country in an effort to bribe government troops.

Azimi, speaking in his headquarters here, also said intelligence reports indicated that "no final decision" had yet been made by regional mojahedin commanders on a planned attack on Gardeyz, a major city in Paktiar Province often known as the "gateway to Kabul."

He said the Kabul-Gardeyz road was open to normal civilian and military traffic and government troops in the city were in a state of "high combat readiness."

Unofficial reports from the Pakistan border area, where many of the mojahedin are based, have said that large sums of money are being paid to commanders there to "buy off" government militia in posts in target areas.

"This is one of their tactics," the general said, referring to the current reports as propaganda.

The general also said reports of a military coup attempt or plot in Kabul last month were without basis.

He said he was not worried about the continuance of military supplies to Kabul from the Soviet Union, saying that protocols had been signed for 1992 for military equipment "since the Soviet coup attempt," and that more would soon be signed for the same period.

In the first protocol, weapon supplies are "at the same level. There is no change," he said.

## Bangladesh

### Nationwide By-Elections Slated 11 Sep

### Candidates' Prospects Viewed

*BK0809031291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0108 GMT 8 Sep 91*

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 8 (afp)—Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is looking to achieve a majority government in crucial by-elections Wednesday which are also being seen as a fresh test of popularity between her and archrival Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

If the prime minister's Bangladesh Nationalist Party wins at least two of the 11 seats at stake, the BNP will enjoy a simple majority in parliament, ending its dependence on the righist Jamaat-i-Islami party for support.

Some analysts also see the contest as a popularity test for the two political matriarchs, six months after they did battle in Bangladesh's first free elections since former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's downfall.

Others, however, warn against reading too much into the results.

"I think we need at least a year for judging popularity," one observer said.

One political commentator, Reazuddin Ahmed, says the by-election has overshadowed a September 15 referendum to decide whether Bangladesh should retain its current presidential system of government or revert back to parliamentary type.

"So far, indications suggest that the turnout would for the referendum would be low," Ahmed wrote in the DAILY STAR newspaper.

Parliament voted unanimously last month to amend the constitution to change the form of government. But a referendum is required first before the president can sign it into law.

In campaign speeches, Zia has attacked Wajed's Awami League as lacking in its committment to democracy in Bangladesh.

"The party which does not believe in democracy and peoples' fundamental rights cannot bring welfare to the nation," she told a campaign rally in Dhaka.

Those who talk of democracy had once buried it by introducing one-party rule, she argued. Wajed's father and Bangladesh's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, changed the country's constitution from a multi-party democracy to one-man rule shortly before he was killed in a military coup in 1975.

Wajed, leader of the parliamentary opposition, has meanwhile accused Zia's young government of failing to run the country properly and for breaking election pledges.

"Khaleda Zia is now talking about a conspiracy to hoodwink people about her government's failure," she said.

Last weekend, at the BNP's 13th anniversary rally, Zia spoke of a budding conspiracy against her government.

"I want to warn those involved in conspiring against my government that you will be dealt with severely... You will be destroyed," the prime minister said.

Political observers are expecting straight fights between the BNP and Awami League, while in northern Rangpur district the Jatiya Party of deposed President Ershad is seen as a big contender.

Currently the BNP has 164 seats in parliament, followed by the Awami League with 83, the Jatiya Party with 31 and the Jamaat-i-Islami party with 20. Smaller parties and independents hold the remaining seats in the 330-member chamber.

Forty-nine candidates will contest the by-elections, the election commission said. Four seats are up for grabs in Rangpur, another two in both Dhaka and Madaripur, and one each in Bogra, Chittagong and Bhola.

Some of the vacancies stem from the fact that candidates in the February elections could run in several constituencies at the same time.

Thus former president Ershad vacated four of the five seats he won in his home district of Rangpur, and Zia a like number in Dhaka, Bogra and Chittagong.

One seat fell vacant with the death of an Awami League MP, while the rest were abandoned by other candidates who won more than one seat in the general elections.

### Low Turnout, Little Violence

*BK1109080091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 11 (AFP)—Voting' Bangladesh's 11 by-elections continued peacefully Wednesday in most constituencies, except for a brief clash between rival groups in one centre, officials said. But officials and witnesses said voter turnout was comparatively lower than during the February general elections and blamed foul weather for it.

In the southeastern port city of Chittagong, activists from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and rival supporters of the opposition Awami League (AL) briefly fought in the Patantuli polling centre, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of injury.

In northern Rangpur District, the centre of attraction for the by-elections to 11 vacant seats in the national Parliament, voting was taking place peacefully, the district's police chief told AFP by telephone.

"Voter turnout was low compared to February general elections, possibly because of foul weather," he said.

Rangpur is the home district of deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and observers said winning the four seats vacated there was a prestige issue for all the major participating parties.

Former Prime Minister Mianur Rahman Chowdhury, the acting chairman of Ershad's Jatiya Party (JP), and former deputy prime minister Shah Moazzem Hossain were contesting from Rangpur as non-resident candidates.

Newspaper reports said the JP was a major challenger to both BNP and AL in the district because of local sentiment for Ershad.

Polling was also being held peacefully in Madaripur, Bhola and Bogra, local officials said.

The nine-hour polling started at 8:00 A.M. (0200 GMT) with police out in force and the paramilitary Bangladesh rifles patrolling the constituencies. Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed visited several polling centres in the Dhaka and said polling would be conducted freely and fairly.

"Otherwise I will order fresh voting," he said.

The government made the day a public holiday in the voting districts to enable residents to cast their vote, but some, like taxi driver Sirajullah, said they would not

bother. He would not vote this time because it was "of no use," Sirajullah said. "Nothing has changed for poor people like me since the last elections."

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was scheduled to vote at the Adamjee Cantonment college centre, close to her residence at the Dhaka Cantonment military barracks.

Zia hopes to achieve a majority government in the by-elections, seen here as another competition between her and her arch rival Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the AL leader.

Winning at least two of the seats at stake would give the BNP a simple majority in the 330-member house, ending its dependence on the right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami.

Four seats are up for grabs in Rangpur, two each in Dhaka and Madaripur and one each in Bogra, Chittagong and Bhola.

The BNP currently holds 164 seats in parliament, the AL holds 89, the JP has 31 and the Jamaat 20. The rest are divided among smaller parties and independents.

### Foreign Minister Returns From Nonaligned Meeting

*BK1109034091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0110 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman returned home after attending the 10th nonaligned foreign ministers meeting in Accra. The foreign minister led a five-member delegation to the meeting. The foreign minister, during his stay in the capital of Ghana, met with his counterparts from different countries including Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Kuwait, Libya, and Malaysia and discussed bilateral and other issues.

## India

### Minister—Soviet Nuclear Issue Not Resolved

*BK0909092091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, has said the nuclear issue in the Soviet Union cannot be treated as resolved till the union framework and a decision on the treaty of nuclear units in various republics is reached. He was opening a seminar on developments in the Soviet Union in New Delhi today.

### Afghan Mojahedin Aiding Kashmir 'Terrorists'

*BK1109101891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] The government has received unconfirmed reports about the assistance given by some Afghan mojahedin to the terrorists in the Kashmir valley. This was stated by the minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today. He said the govenment has stepped up vigil along the border with Pakistan and dust to dawn curfew has been clamped in the five-km belt along the border and Line of Control. Mr. Jacob also said that there is better coordination between the Army, paramilitary forces, and state police to tackle the situation in the valley.

### Commentary on Kashmir Issue at Nonaligned Session

*BK1009123991 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[NATIONAL HERALD special correspondent Ajay K. Roy commentary: "India scores over Pak on Kashmir at Accra NAM meet"]

[Text] At the 10th ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement—NAM—at Accra, which has just concluded, India has scored a diplomatic victory over Pakistan by scotching its repeated attempts to rake up the Kashmir issue. The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, thoroughly convinced his counterparts and heads of over 100 delegations that Pakistan's contentions in this regard were apparently improper and irrelevant.

Pakistan misused the forum of NAM by raising a purely bilateral issue like Kashmir, possibly encouraged by its successful maneuvering in getting India hostile resolution on the matter adopted at the recent meeting of the Organization of Islamic Countries. Basically, NAM has been for handling the issue of common interests to members. Raising differences over Kashmir in this forum is conducive neither to the resolution of these differences nor the strengthening of the movement. In this context, Pakistan, to the disgust of participating countries at the Accra meet, chose to unabashedly to do volte-face on what Mr. Shaharyar Khan who came to Delhi as the special envoy of the prime minister had promised to Indian leaders. He had told India that his country remained committed to the assurance of resolving all differences bilaterally. It was also made clear to Islamabad that its plea for reviving the UN Resolution of 1948 calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir does not hold water. As Mr. Solanki emphasized at the meet, the Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly soon after independence freely endorsed the accession of the state to the Indian union and they have freely participated with their fellow citizens from other parts of the country in a series of elections.

This plea for self determination for the people of Kashmir is not acceptable to any major power. Islamabad has to reckon with the growing international awareness of the role it is playing in encouraging insurgency and terrorism in the valley. The fact of interference has been well documented by western journalists, other observers, and has stood out in official statements of the U.S. Mr. Robert Gates, who was sent by Mr. George Bush last year to the subcontinent to help defuse the tension, confirmed this and obtained an assurance from

Pakistan for reducing its involvement. The U.S. Congressman Mr. Stephen Solarz's remarks on the situation in Kashmir were a clinching evidence of Pakistan's active training of terrorists. The noted South Asian scholar, Mr. (Sellig Harrison) had disclosed in his article in THE WASHINGTON POST that at least 63 camps in Pakistan were training and equipping subversives to create disturbances in the valley. No wonder Pakistan's objections to India's increased military presence along the Line of Control do not evoke much support in the concerned capitals.

Besides aborting Pakistan's dubious diplomatic moves regarding Kashmir, the Accra meet as part of the seven-point agenda reaffirmed the continued relevance of NAM, rejecting Egypt's proposal for merger of the movement with the Group of 77 and Yugoslavia's suggestion for a change in the name. It decided to revive the ad hoc seven-member Nicosia committee for foreign ministers to chart a new program of action following the end of cold war era.

The relevance of NAM could ever hardly be in doubt. Historically, the raison d'etre of the movement lay as much at the desire of the emerging decolonized world to remain unaligned as in their deep-rooted desire to preserve their freedom of judgment and independence of action in the international arena. These countries came together not to form another bloc, but to raise the voices of the exploited millions through a moral and political movement.

With the changing international configuration, this logic remains even more valid than ever before. Today the movement is well-poised to play an important role in the international community by keeping the Belgrade priorities at the forefront of the international agenda. This stipulated peace and disarmament, equitable economic order, sustainable and environmentally sound development, promotion of human rights, and democratization of the United Nations. In essence, NAM could serve as a global conscience, creating and sensitizing world opinion on issues of general and yet vital concerns.

The recommendations made in the 22-page Accra Declaration for immediate review of the membership of the United Nations Security Council to make the decision-making of the organization more transparent and democratic represents another diplomatic victory for India. The drafting committee adopted its initiating [as heard] on the need to democratize the UN despite opposition from Pakistan. The call for reforming the Security Council reflects the growing desire among the members of 103-nation movement that the domination by five countries—the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain, and France [only four countries as heard]—should end. They hold a vote on decisions made by the world body's general assembly. As such, major NAM countries like India, Brazil, and others should play a more effective role in that context.

## BJP Demands Tough Action Against Pakistan

*BK0709155791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Sep 91*

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] says the recent unprovoked intrusion by Pakistani troops into Indian territory is an ample signal about the future designs of Pakistan. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party's vice president, Mr. Krishen Lal Sharma, said Pakistan is openly enhancing its nuclear capability and giving threats of war over the Kashmir issue. He demanded that India should take a tough stand against Pakistan for its hostile action of encouraging terrorists to destabilize India.

## Aviation Pact Reached With Bhutan

*BK1009151691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] India and Bhutan have signed their first-ever civil aviation agreement. The agreement was signed in New Delhi today by the secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Mr. A.V. Ganeshan, and the ambassador of Bhutan in India, Mr. Dasho Karma Letho. It provides a legal framework for operation of air services between the two countries and their destinations beyond them. The agreement was signed in the presence of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan and the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The minister for civil aviation and tourism, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, were also present. Earlier, the prime minister called on the king and discussed bilateral and international issues.

## External Affairs Minister Returns From Ghana

*BK1109081691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, has said that Nonaligned Movement [NAM] should shift its priorities in favor of economic matters in view of the disappearance of military and power blocs. He was talking to newsmen in New Delhi today on his return from the NAM ministerial meeting in Accra. He said that NAM member countries should work for increased interaction with developed countries. Mr. Solanki said the Accra declaration has listed the priority areas like cooperation with G-77 countries. The minister said India's role with protection of interest of NAM member countries was appreciated at the conference.

The external affairs minister said India gave a befitting reply to Pakistan's attempts to internationalize the Kashmir issue by raising the matter at Accra. He informed that the member countries were also of the opinion that bilateral matters should not be discussed at NAM meetings.

### Envoy Denies Pakistan's Ties to Assam Extremists

*BK1009161791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The government is assessing the situation in Assam in view of the spurt in ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activities. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the home minister will be holding a meeting with the senior officials to consider the state government's request for assistance in tackling the law and order problem in the state. The spokesman said that security for employees has been further strengthened following the killing of the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] engineer. Oil production throughout the country except in the Bombay sector has been hit for the second day today with the ONGC employees continuing their strike to protest the killing. Bombay sector resumed drilling operations today.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued in New Delhi today, the Pakistani high commissioner said his government has no links with the ULFA or any other such outfit as alleged by the Assam chief minister.

### Oil Production Slow as Strike Continues in Assam

*BK1009140291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The government is assessing the situation in Assam in view of the spurt in ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activities. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the home minister will be holding a meeting with the senior officials to consider the state government's request for assistance in tackling the law and order problem. The spokesman said that security for employees has been further strengthened following the killing of the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] engineer. Meanwhile, oil production throughout the country except in Bombay sector has been hit for the second day today with the ONGC employees continuing their strike to protest the killing. Bombay sector resumed the drilling operations today.

### 9 Militants Surrender, 5 Killed in Punjab

*BK1009162491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] In Punjab nine militants surrendered along with their arms before the senior superintendent of police of Sangrur this afternoon. According to an official spokesman, the surrender took place at a function held in village Maharana in Amargarh area in the presence of panchayats [rural body officials] of neighboring villages. Elsewhere in the state, in three separate incidents five militants have been killed, four kidnapped persons rescued, and the manager of the Punjab and Sindh Bank kidnapped from Malanawala area of Ferozepore District.

### Commentary: Sikh Groups Divided on Punjab Polls

*BK0909110491 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Vipin Kabi Commentary]

[Text] The resolution adopted by several Sikh Organizations at Anandpur Saheb on last Sunday to boycott [Punjab] elections if all their demands are not conceded has given a new twist to the vexed situation in the state. It was apparently a preemptive move in the view of the proposal to amend the Representation of People's Act aimed at barring from the election process anyone preaching secessionism. The resolution adopted by 36 political, social, and religious organizations representing the Sikhs was not unexpected in view of the recent statements issued by the hardliners. Obviously, the moderates were too overawed at the meeting to take a conflicting stand, though the Akali Dal led by Mr. Amrinder Singh did display the courage to seek condemnation of killing of innocent persons. Reports also suggest that the other factions of Akali Dal sent out signals that they were reluctant parties to the boycott decision taken at the meeting. There are at least two indications that the various Akali Dals were yet to make up their mind on this issue. Firstly, they have not announced the formal withdrawal of their candidates from the elections currently scheduled to be held on September 25, and secondly, which is more significant, the representatives of political parties at the conclave have announced that the resolution would have to be endorsed by their representative and respective executive committees.

It is known that the leaders of the major factions of Akali Dal are divided over the issue and some of them may decide to take a different stand depending on the scope of the proposed amendment to the Representation of the People's Act. The Akali Dal led by Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann has already come out in the open to oppose the decision taken at the meeting. It said yesterday that the resolution could not be binding on the Sikhs as it was taken in the absence of Damdami Taksal [Sikh Seminary] and the Panthic [Sikh Religious] Committee led by Manochahal. The two organizations had made it clear a few days ago that they would not attend the Anandpur Saheb conclave as the agenda for the meeting was not discussed with them by the president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temples Managament] Committee [SGPC], Mr. Baldev Singh Sibia, who was authorized to convene the meeting.

The Anandpur Saheb meeting was attended by two general secretaries of the Akali Dal-Mann who, according to the press release of the party at Chandigarh, had made it clear at the meeting that the participation of the Panthic Committee-Manochahal and the Damdami Taksal was a must and any decision taken in their absence was not valid or binding on the Sikhs. Another notable absentee from the meeting was the All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF]-Manjit Singh group. It too had announced its decision not to participate in the

meeting on the grounds that the SGPC president had not discussed the agenda with it. Significantly, the major factions of the Akali Dal and the AISSF led by Mr. Manjit Singh are in the fray for the assembly elections presently scheduled for September 25.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, have made it clear that the government proposes to introduce a amendment to the Representation of the People's Act. The amendment would certainly lead to the annulment of a notification for the assembly elections to the state scheduled for September 25. The elections were earlier scheduled to be held on June 22, but was postponed by the chief election commissioner, Mr.T.N. Seshan, early on June 21. Since then there had been an uncertainty over the holding of elections on schedule. The Congress-I, which had boycotted the elections, had taken the stand that the elections in the present circumstances would merely mean a referendum for Khalistan [separate homeland for Sikhs]. It maintained that it would participate in the elections only if those who preach secessionism were debarred from the fray.

## New Punjab Governor on Winning People's Trust

*BK0709024791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0110 GMT 7 Sep 91*

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 7 (AFP)—Punjab's new governor promises he will do his best to win the trust of a people squeezed between police and Sikh militant terror after eight years of bloody strife.

But Surendra Nath, a former police officer who has served before in the troubled northern Indian state, has a tough task ahead as he picks up the reins of the fight against Sikh separatism. He knows it.

"It is an uphill task," Nath confessed to reporters on a recent visit to this Punjab holy city, a bastion of Sikh militancy.

He said he had come back to Punjab to "wipe the tears of the suffering people," pledging to end bloodshed and to try and win over militants with affection and bring them back into the national mainstream.

Nath's words only evoked deep scepticism from a people grown used to unkept promises and living with strife.

The new governor, appointed August 6, has the additional disadvantage of belonging to the Indian Police Service, which is widely distrusted and disliked by Punjabis.

He is also seen as one of the men responsible for a June 1984 army assault on Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, serving at the time as the state government's advisor on security.

That operation, ordered to flush out militants using the shrine as a sanctuary, left more than 600 people dead by official count. Many victims were innocent pilgrims trapped in fighting.

"A man with an anti-Sikh and anti-Punjab vision" is how top Sikh politician Simranjit Singh Mann described Nath, whom no Sikh religious figure received on a visit to the Golden Temple after he was appointed governor.

Since Nath was last in Punjab, violence associated with the Sikh separatist conflict has escalated sharply, with more than 3,300 people dying violently so far this year on top of nearly 4,000 killed in 1990.

The toll includes civilians, militants and policemen killed in the campaign for a separate Sikh homeland called Khalistan, or Land of the Pure.

The unrelenting violence forced the last-minute postponement of state polls set for June 22, prompting Nath's predecessor Om Prakash Malhotra to quit because he had promised elections as a way out of Punjab's agony.

But the polls now due for September 25 look set for another postponement, with New Delhi mulling legislation to bar secessionist groups from running for legislative posts.

Sikh political parties have already decided on a boycott.

Punjab has been ruled directly from New Delhi since May 1987, when a Sikh moderate administration was dismissed for failing to staunch Sikh militancy.

Sikh politicians have accused New Delhi following a bullet-for-bullet policy since then, and charged police with persecuting Sikh civilians in the name of fighting militancy.

Such allegations have been backed by human rights organisations which have cited eyewitness testimony accusing security forces of killing suspects in cold blood and passing the deaths off as casualties in shootouts.

Random hit-and-run attacks on civilian targets and kidnappings for ransom by Sikh militants continue daily despite "successes" touted by police, who claim to have killed more than 150 militants since july.

The police say public sympathy for the separatist cause is at a low ebb.

"Militants are no longer looked upon with respect, but the people obey them out of fear of the AK-47 assault rifles that accompany them," said P.S. Gill, police chief of the district of Majitha.

That fear has helped the militants enjoy a degree of success in enforcing "codes of conduct," including the compulsory use of the Punjabi language in all government offices and the kind of clothes that students should wear.

Indian newspaper journalists no longer use the word "terrorist" to describe militants, who have imposed a code on reporters as well.

Militants have urged banks not to transfer money deposited by Punjabis to branches outside the state, give Sikhs priority in jobs and loans and not employ outsiders.

Less successful has been a no-drinking campaign in a state which has traditionally been the highest consumer of alcohol in India. Auctions of liquor shop licences recently evoked enthusiastic response and bars in most parts of the state are doing good business.

Punjabis are also showing signs of defiance which must be worrying to the proponents of militancy.

The militants designated August 15, India's independence day, as a "black day" for Punjab, but civilians nevertheless dared to venture out and few black flags of protest were hoisted.

The militants however did torch a total of 24 trucks which had ignored their call to stay garaged on a day when the police were thought to be on top alert.

The action won no friends for either the militants or the police, both of whom have organised mercenary squads.

Human rights organisations have alleged that police are killing militants for bounty, while police say militants are undertaking assignments to settle individual disputes over land and other property with bullets.

But public resentment over what are called "police excesses"—torture and killing of suspects—and government failure to initiate political moves to settle the separatist campaign has overtaken anger against the militants.

Sikh political and religious organisations decided last week to boycott the September 25 elections to protest repression by police, who are vested with sweeping powers of search, arrest and detention.

"The centre (New Delhi) should take a hard look at the performance of the police and create conditions conducive to the restoration of confidence and sense of security in the people of the state," said Kirpal Singh, chief of a prominent social and religious organisation.

Few believe that will happen at a time when New Delhi and Sikh militants both show no signs that they want to stop fighting and talk to each other.

### Lok Sabha Passes Worship Place Bill, BJP Walks

*BK1009152291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The Lok Sabha has passed the Places of Worship Special Provisions Bill after a noisy walkout by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Shiv Sena and the marathon debate punctuated by acrimonious exchanges and heated arguments between the Congress-I, National Front-Left Parties Combine, and the BJP members. The house was even adjourned once during the debate till 1400 amidst unprecedented scenes and pandemonium following certain remarks by a Janata Dal member which was strongly objected to by the BJP.

The house approved the bill after all amendments, excepting two moved by the government, were either negated or withdrawn. The bill was passed by an overwhelming voice vote amidst thumping of desks by the Congress-I, National Front and Left Parties' members, and their allies.

Some Shiv Sena members tore off certain papers, purportedly copies of the bill, and littered them in the well of the house before walking out. The Speaker Mr. Shivraj Patil described the action as most reprehensible and the whole house joined him in condemning the incident. Before leading his party to the walkout, the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the BJP cannot associate itself with the passage of the bill as it will serve no constructive purpose and instead will create more controversies. He charged some political parties with adopting double standards in religious matters.

### Home Minister Clarifies Bill

*BK1009163591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Excerpts] The Lok Sabha has passed the Places of Worship Special Provisions Bill after a noisy walkout by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Shiv Sena and a marathon debate punctuated by acrimonious exchanges and heated arguments between the Congress-I- National Front-Left Parties Combine and the BJP members. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Replying to the debate, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said the legislation will foreclose any controversy on places of worship and seek to guarantee freedom to propagate any religion. He said that the bill provides for maintenance of religious character of places of worship as it existed on the 15th of August 1947 except the disputed site in Ayodhya. All suits or other proceedings pending as on the 11th of July this year with respect to any such place of worship will abate and further suits or other proceedings will be barred.

Replying to points raised by members during clause-by-clause consideration stage, Mr. Chavan said the provisions cannot be extended to Jammu and Kashmir as it requires a special procedure to be followed for the purpose.

### Janata Dal Holds National Executive Session

### Discusses Party, National Issues

*BK0709162791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Sep 91*

[Text] Renewed efforts are on to resolve the crisis in the Janata Dal. The party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore

Singh, while declining to divulge the details, told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the differences among top leaders are likely to be ironed out as a result of the parleys now underway. Otherwise, the issue will be taken up with the national executive tomorrow, when it is scheduled to discuss organizational matters.

On the opening day of its two-day meeting today, the executive discussed at length the political situation in the country, particularly in the context of some senior Janata Dal leaders advocating a rethinking on ties with the Congress-I. Both Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde and Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta took the stand that cooperation with the Congress-I is possible as that party is changing its style of functioning. But the meeting resolved that the Janata Dal must adhere to the mandate of the recent elections and function as an opposition.

The party chief, Mr. S.R. Bommai, who presided over the meeting criticized the government for, what he called, its antipeople and antipoor economic policies. He wanted his partymen to sink their differences to strengthen the organizational set up.

Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan also attended the national executive meeting, but did not participate in the debate on the political resolution moved by Professor Madhu Dandavate.

### Rules Out Alliance With Congress-I

*BK0809072691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Sep 91*

[Text] The Janata Dal has ruled out the possibility of its merger or alliance with the Congress-I. The political resolution adopted by the party's national executive in New Delhi yesterday said that it will go by the people's mandate and perform the role of a responsible opposition. Initiated by Professor Madhu Dandavate, the resolution criticized the Congress-I for its alleged failure to check communalism. It welcomed the legislation to maintain status quo of places of worship as on 15th August 1947. On the opening day of its two-day meeting yesterday, the executive discussed at length the political situation in the country. Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Ajit Singh and Ram Vilas Paswan attended the meeting but did not participate in the debate on the political resolution.

Briefing newsmen the party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, while declining to divulge the details said the differences among top leaders are likely to ironed out as a result of the parleys now under way. Otherwise, the issue will be taken up by the national executive today when it is scheduled to discuss the oraganizational matters.

### Leadership Discord Resolved

*BK0909035091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, says all differences in the party leadership have been sorted out amicably. Talking to newsmen soon after the national executive party meeting in New Delhi yesterday, Mr. Bommai said that he will be consulting all the leaders for a consensus on reorganizing the party's central officer-bearers. He said the new organization work will be completed within a fortnight. Mr. Bommai reiterated his appeal to the partymen not to give vent to their grievances to the press.

Mr. Bommai accused the Congress-I of having a tacit understanding with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. He also alleged that the new economic policies of the center have opened the door for multinationals.

### Editorial Views Space Satellite Program

*BK0909110191 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Aug 91 p 8*

[Editorial: "Well Done"]

[Text] The temptation to dismiss Parliament's enthusiastic response—the Rajya Sabha even adjourned itself for the day—to the successful launching of the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite-1B (IRS-1B) should be resisted. Though orbited by a Vostock launcher in the Soviet Union's Baykonur Cosmodrome, the indigenously designed and fabricated satellite is yet another feather in the cap of Indian scientists who have repeatedly shown their mettle in the face of heavy odds. A significant landmark in the advance of science and technology in India, IRS-1B, which follows the successful launching of IRS-1A in March, 1988, will greatly help this country, with its diverse gelogical features, to manage its land and ocean resources more efficiently. This once again underlines the contribution that India's space programme has been making to development. The role of the INSAT-1D, a multi-purpose communications satellite, in the operation of its telecommunication network, television broacasting and round-the-clock weather monitoring is well known.

The country, of course, can realy be considered to have come of age in space science and technology when it develops its own launching capability. Unfortunately the progress in this direction has by no means been even. Both Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicles [ASLV]. designed to carry payloads of 150 kg and 400 kg respectively, failed to take off in march 1987 and July 1989. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle [PSLV], which is being designed to carry a payload of 1,100 kg and which will be a much more complex and sophisticated mechanism, has had to face a series of problems since it was conceived. The Prime Minister's statement in Parliament on Thursday in connection with the IRS-1B launch, that India will come to have its own independent launching capacity in 1992 when the PSLV will be ready at Sriharikota, may therefore prove to be a little optimistic. While optimism is understandable on occasions like the one on Thursday, it will be more realistic to keep one's fingers crossed until the PSLV is launched successfully.

## Iran

### Perez de Cuellar Arrives in Tehran 10 Sep

*LD1009202791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday evening at the head of a delegation on a four-day official visit to our country. At Mehrabad Airport he was welcomed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. In the welcoming ceremony for the UN Secretary-General, Messrs Kharrazi, our country's permanent representative to the UN Secretariat, and Naseri, Iran's permanent representative to the European Office of the United Nations, as well as officials of the Foreign Ministry and a number of ambassadors and charges d'Affaires of foreign countries in Tehran were also present.

According to the report of our correspondent, on his arrival in Tehran, Mr. Perez de Cueller, told reporters: I have come to Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian officials. Stressing that the clauses of the [UN Security Council] Resolution 598 must be implemented, he said: Implementation of the resolution is one of my commitments. I hope in our talks with Iranian officials to arrive at desirable results. Referring to the importance of maintaining the security in the Persian Gulf region Mr. Perez de Cueller said: After talks with Iranian officials on that topic I will go to the countries which are member-states of the Persian [as heard] Gulf Cooperation Council.

Continuing his interview he referred to positive measures adopted by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in solving the problem of the hostages he added: Though the problem of the hostages is not related to Iran, so far we have witnessed a great deal of efforts by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for solving that problem.

It must be added that Messrs Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General and Sevan, the Secretary General's special envoy for Afghanistan affairs and Picot, the secretary-general's special envoy are accompanying Mr. Perez de Cueller to Tehran. [Tehran IRNA in English at 1742 GMT on 10 September in a related report also notes: "De Cuellar said the issue of Afghanistan and establishment of an independent government there was another topic he intended to raise in his talks in Tehran. He said he was planning to set up an impartial body to pursue the issue, hoping that such a body would soon be formed.

On the situation of Iraqi Shiite people in southern Iraq, the U.N. secretary general said he had the same duty towards the Shiites of southern Iraq as he had towards the Kurds of Northern Iraq. He regretted that there have been some difficulties in offering humanitarian assistance to the Shiites of southern Iraq. He did not explain what deterrent measures the U.N. was intending to take to stop the Iraqi regime's crimes against its Shiite majority.

Asked whether the aim of his tour of Middle East countries, meant that initiatives are being taken on the Arab-Israel issue by the U.S. Government, he said he was following up the issue keenly but that as the U.N. secretary-general he had no role in such efforts."]

### Meets Foreign Minister Velayati

*LD1109082391 Tehran IRNA in English 0644 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar started first round of talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday morning.

Perez de Cuellar who arrived here Tuesday night on a four-day visit heading a nine-member delegation, said upon arrival that he will discuss with Iranian officials implementation of Resolution 598 on ending Iraq-Iran hostilities, Afghan crisis and ways of establishment of peace, stability and security in the Persian Gulf region.

As for identification of the aggressor in the Iraq-Iran war in accordance with paragraph six of the resolution, the U.N. chief said he is of the opinion that an impartial body should be formed to pursue the issue. He added he is making efforts to form the body and expressed hope that it will be formed soon.

He said implementation of the remaining article of the resolution was among his obligations and expressed hope that his talks with Iranian officials will produce good results.

Asked on likelihood of solving the hostages issue during his visit to Tehran, he said Iran is willing to discuss the subject and that he will listen to views of the Iranian officials. He also thanked the Iranian assistance adding that the issue was not related to Iran and must be setteled somewhere else.

He reiterated that different groups are involved in the hostage issue and that the problem must be solved through these groups.

On Afghan issue, he said there are reasons for being optimistic towards the settlement of the Afghan crisis.

Meanwhile Iran's Permanent Envoy to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi told IRNA Tuesday night that Perez de Cuellar's visit to Tehran was a sign of importance he attached to Iran in settlement of the regional problems. It also indicates that Iran is an influential country in regional policies and in solving the Afghan issues.

Kharrazi added that the U.N. secretary general has expressed readiness to make efforts for implementation of the remaining articles of the resolution before the term of his office ends.

Kharrazi said Perez de Cuellar's discussions in Tehran will center on paragraph six and eight of the resolution dealing with identification of the aggressor and peace and stability in the region as well as settlement of the Afghan crisis in the light of the recent political efforts of Iran and Pakistan and the five-point plan of the secretary general on Afghanistan.

### Comments After Talks

*LD1109102591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Excerpts] The UN secretary general met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. At the meeting, which was also attended by Messrs. Eliasson, Sevan, and Picot, assistants to the secretary general, the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, issues relating to Afghanistan, the international situation, and regional developments, especially recent events in the Soviet Union, were discussed.

Referring to the parts of Resolution 598 not yet implemented, Mr. Velayati described the full implementation of the resolution as extremely important and necessary.

On the prisoners of war from the imposed war, he said: Iran decisively wishes the issue of the prisoners of war, which is a humanitarian issue, to be fully resolved as soon as possible. He added: Last year we presented the Iraqi authorities with files on 5,000 Iranian prisoners of war held in Iraq. Unfortunately, however, we have not received any information on this yet. [passage omitted]

Referring to the Afghan issue he once again endorsed the general points of the plan put forward by the secretary general to resolve the Afghan issue. He said: We regard your plan as a good framework for solving the Afghan problem. We believe that, with certain corollaries, the plan could solve the Afghan problem.

In response Mr. Perez de Cuellar praised Iran for its stance on his proposed plan and its cooperation with Afghan mojahedin. He called for practical cooperation on the part of all countries involved in the Afghan issue.

On the full implementation of Resolution 598 he said: The resolution outlines a definite role for the secretary general. We need the cooperation of Persian Gulf countries to fulfill that responsibility.

About Persian Gulf security he said: Security in the Persian Gulf region is not a political issue, but a geographic one. Therefore, it concerns the regional countries themselves.

On the independence of the Baltic republics he said: From the UN viewpoint there will not be any problems with the independence of these three republics, particularly since many Security Council members have recognized them.

## Majles Deputy Speaker on Guardians' Council Role

*NC0909101291 Tehran SALAM in Persian 28 Aug 91 p 11*

[First of four-part "exclusive" interview with Majles Deputy Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Asadollah Bayat by unidentified correspondent in Gachsaran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [SALAM] We would like to thank Your Excellency for giving us some of your time. Please tell us your views on the new definition of the principle of supervision adopted by the Council of Guardians in view of its unfavorable experience in the elections for the Council of Experts.

[Bayat] [passage omitted] The nature of the supervision of the Council of Guardians is spelled out in Paragraph 99 of the Constitution, so it is quite wrong to talk about the matter as some sort of new development. This paragraph is quite clear. Those questions which have arisen suddenly, and which are politically motivated, are unwarranted. This law and this principle was approved by the Majles in the form of the elections law and the limits of supervision by the Council of Guardians. If the Council of Guardians' interpretation in itself had the force of law, then there would have been no need for us to determine the extent and method of this supervision and no need for this law; it would not have come before the Majles as a bill requiring our approval. Interpretation, therefore, cannot have the weight of law and the esteemed president and interior minister are not obligated to accept it, especially when we already have the elections law which clearly states that the right to determine competence lies with the executive branch, with the Council of Guardians' having a supervisory role. Legally speaking, a supervisor cannot enforce laws or responsibilities will become blurred. [passage omitted]

It is important to remember that this law was not passed in the days of the corrupt monarchy; it was passed by the Islamic Majles and endorsed by the Council of Guardians. It was approved by a Council of Guardians which was more knowledgeable than the current one and included Mr. Safi, Mr. Sane'i, and Mr. Mahdavi-Kani. Thus we have a law which says that the determination of competence lies with the executive branch and that if this branch rejects someone's credentials, he can then complain to the Council of Guardians which will, in turn, review his complaint.

Therefore, even though the Council of Guardians has the right to interpret the Constitution, interpretation is necessary only when there is amibiguity in the law—and there is no ambiguity in this law. And as long as this interpretation does not become law, it cannot have any force. The esteemed interior minister must implement the existing law, which stipulates the duties of the Council of Guardians and its right to determine the competence of candidates, and it can only express its views only when the credentials of a candidate are rejected.

### Views Government Policy

*NC0909120591 Tehran SALAM in Persian 29 Aug 91 p 15*

[Second of four-part "exclusive" interview with Majles Deputy Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Asadollah Bayat by unidentified correspondent in Gachsaran; date not given]

[Text] [SALAM] Please tell us your views on the composition of the cabinet and the programs of Mr. Hashemi's government.

[Bayat] I do not wish to discuss individuals, even though I do have some personal views on certain members of the cabinet. Some of them were also in engineer Musavi's cabinet and some are later appointments. In general, most of the cabinet members are competent. What is more important for us, however, is that we take the government's activities as a yardstick for measuring successes or, God forbid, failures. We regard the cabinet of Mr. Hashemi as the government of someone who, as you know, has a bright and revolutionary record, someone who is a veteran revolutionary and combatant who suffered under the shah's oppression, who held key positions after the revolution, who was approved by his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and who now has the support of the esteemed leader. We approve of and support his cabinet on the whole and consider any general weakening of Mr. Hashemi's government to be wrong. We do not support anyone who seeks to weaken Mr. Hashemi's government overall and regard this as treason. This does not mean, however, that we should not examine and criticize the behavior of individuals or that we should not express our views about them. Generally speaking, the only government that exists in this world is the Islamic government, the government of the imam, the government of Ayatollah Khamene'i. But we do have certain things to say about economic affairs when some people say that yes, the Islamic government is the greatest government but, at the same time, conditions are such that we must open our doors, that the only way to solve economic problems is through an open-door policy. This does not mean that we do not want to promote public welfare or that we want the people to suffer. We are vehemently opposed to poverty, but unfortunately 80 percent of our people live below poverty level. The question is, though, at what cost public welfare should be achieved. Should it come at the expense of our principles? This cannot be, as I have said many times before. Some people think we do not want wealthy and educated people to come here, but this is not true. What we do want is that we take the same approach the imam did. After accepting the UN resolution, the imam said: You can return, but we do not owe you a thing. Do not set conditions, do not say you will return but want more freedom or that we must do this or that. No. We have preserved this country with the help of its selfless children, the families of the martyrs, and the hezbollah, and we cannot allow it to be handed to these people on a silver platter. We have our views about what should be done if we value our hezbollah people, and there can be no doubt that these people will try to introduce their ideological inclinations into their policies.

Thus we do have certain views on economic policies. We agree with handing over shares in the form of cooperatives. I believe, however, that the cooperatives were much better supported in the past than they are now. At the same time, however, we believe the government should be supported. Nevertheless, the approach taken by managers to the Islamic Councils and the revolutionary children needs to be reviewed carefully. In addition, priority should be given to the cooperative system in economic policies and the government should supply its basic needs and give it banking facilities, in line with in Article 43 of the Constitution, which states that opportunities should be created for people who wish to work but lack the necessary facilities and capital. The Rafsanjan Cooperative Company, for example, has 48,000 members and is so strong now it can compete with the government. Because it belongs to 10 people and to a city it does not create any problems and because if, let us say, this cooperative buys a refrigerator, everyone is a partner. [sentence as published] While we support the government, nevertheless we believe that it should review management, promotion, assignments, and economic inclinations. If we express our views with the intention of helping the system develop, then we believe we are strengthening, not weakening, the government. If economic weaknesses are not brought to light, we will reach a point where all principles will be destroyed, and if this happens we will be plunged into an irreversible disaster, God forbid.

### Reflects on Press, Citizens

*NC0909123491 Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Sep 91 p 11*

[Third of four-part "exclusive" interview with Majles Deputy Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Asadollah Bayat by unidentified correspondent in Gachsaran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [SALAM] Your Excellency: How do you view the population's duties at this time, and how do you feel about the new newspapers?

[Bayat] I clearly say that we believe that the revolution belongs to the people. In this revolution no strata has priority over any other. [passage omitted]

The people have revolutionary values. The leadership, the Majles, and the country is theirs. With their good presence the people can prevent problems. But if the people are not present, God forbid, the principle of the system will be question. The people have chosen this system and its officials. The people did not allow criminal America to set foot in this Islamic country at a time when America is in the area and wants to pressure the region and impose a disarmament plan on the Islamic world. The people's stand will continue in the future. If

the people are here, America will not be able to impose its interests on us. You saw all those movements and uprisings in Iraq. When they did not find a better pawn than Saddam they decided to keep him. Some observers have said that they will keep him for at least two more years. I believe that they will keep him more than two years though. After all, can there be a better pawn for America than Saddam? Our revolution has been preserved due to our people's presence on the scene. Those who in newspaper articles downplay the importance of the people should come to their senses and understand the wrath of the people, which is the manifestation of the wrath of God.

Newspapers propound certain themes. First of all, you know that newspapers have a mission and they have been lax in carrying it out. A newspaper supported by his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, which always strongly opposed the government is now seriously supporting Islam and the government. It is possible that these people have, God willing, become enlightened. If this is the case, then we pray to God for their success. But sometimes doubts abound. How is it that all the warnings and advice given by his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, did not enlighten them? [passage omitted]

SALAM, as it is being published now, is a good newspaper. We know its editor-in-chief and its officials. They are committed people who seriously support the views of his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified. There is no doubt that these are people who are one step ahead of others in strengthening the foundations of the supreme jurisconsult. A variety of newspapers and articles helps culture flourish in a society. [passage omitted]

### Reviews Third Majles Session

*NC0909131491 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Sep 91 p 11*

[Final of four-part "exclusive" interview with Majles Deputy Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Asadollah Bayat by an unidentified correspondent in Gachsaran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [SALAM] Some believe that the third Majles session has been more active and fruitful than previous ones. Others think that the third session has deviated from the path. What do you think?

[Bayat] [passage omitted] The truth is that the third Majles session is stronger in some aspects than the first or second sessions. I will give you some figures. In the first session, laws were usually formulated through bills given to the Majles by the government. There were not many drafts. In the second session, the ratio of bills to drafts was 50-50. Most of the bills that went to the Council of Guardians were not rejected; most of the drafts were. In the third session, the ratio of drafts to laws was 45-55. In other words, the deputies presented 55 percent of the drafts. The interesting point is that 93 percent of the drafts presented by the deputies were not rejected by the Council of Guardians; but the bills were. I should tell you that Majles is stronger than the cabinet as far as legal expertise is concerned. [passage omitted]

This is one aspect of the issue. Another is that the Islamic Majles took some political steps. In the first session, its approach on Bani-Sadr was one of the revolution's miracles. In addition, I can refer to two examples from the third session: The break in relations with Britain and the issue of the "Satanic Verses," which the imam, may his soul be sanctified, dealt with as we saw fit. [passage omitted]

Another aspect was the U.S. Congress granting Bush extensive authority and permission to sue anyone who speaks against America in any part of the world. The Majles retaliated and granted the same authority to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and gave him the permission to act as revolutionary Iran's representative against anyone in the world who acted against the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

### Grand Ayatollah Dismisses Multiparty Law in Iraq

*LD0609032191 Tehran IRNA in English 1436 GMT 5 Sep 91*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 5, IRNA—Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Abolqasem Kho'i's representative in Europe, Hojjat ol-eslam Fazel Milani, has dismissed the new multi-party law in Iraq as "a hoax," and said tormenting the Iraqi people is an unalterable policy of the Ba'athist regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Milani, inteviewed by the Persian service of the "Voice of America," said the fanfare accompanying the re-opening of the holy shrines of Imam Ali (PBUH) [peace be upon him] in Najaf and Abul-Fazl Abbas (PBUH) in Karbala, is "sheer propaganda stuff" in favour of the regime, and has nothing to do with religion.

Listing the crimes of the "godless regime," he said "most of the ulema of the theological seminaries are languishing in jails, or have met a still worse fate. Several libraries have been destroyed, schools have been closed down and many mosques razed to the ground."

The two shrines along with that of Imam Hussein's (PBUH) in Karbala, were attacked with heavy artillery and desecrated by the Ba'athist forces during the people's uprising in Iraq last March, which also saw the abduction of the 95-year-old Grand Ayatollah Kho'i from his home in Najaf-e 'Olya, the massacre of tens of thousands of people and the displacement of over a million others.

According to the Hojjat ol-Eslam, this was not the first time that the Iraqi people were being "duped" with the talk of an open political atmosphere. In fact, he noted, this is the fifth time in its 22 year stranglehold on Iraq that the Ba'ath party has resorted to this deception.

He warned Iraqis that it was bait, and said that when their good intentions and activities become manifest, the regime will once again throw the people into dungeons or execute them.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Milani strongly criticized international forums for their suspicious silence towards the massacre of the oppressed Iraqi people by the Saddam regime.

In related news today, Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talebani has also criticized the new party law, which rules out the setting up of political parties by the two main opposition currents to Ba'athist rule, the Shiite Arabs and Kurds who between them account for over 80 percent of the country's population.

### Official Views Monitoring of Private Sector

*LD0709100491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0640 GMT 7 Sep 91*

[Excerpts] One of the duties of the Islamic Republic security forces is to control and supervise public places—general stores, shops, agencies, private sector companies, movie houses, and similar places. If there is no control and supervision, these places can be turned into refuges for profiteers, offenders, and those who disrupt social order. [passage omitted] In the wake of the security forces merger, force officials and commanders have adopted new measures to tighten control over these places. In this regard, Mr. Jalaledin Sa'idi, deputy director of intelligence and operations of the Tehran security zone, has provided explanations, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin Sa'idi recording] The supervision of guilds, especially the specialized guilds—we have a number of guilds with a special character. At times there are some few individuals there who, at times, resort to destructive work. And these destructive deeds have a bad impact on society. We hereby serve notice to the Directorate of Public Places to begin its work on inspections today. It must do so on the basis of directives already issued, detailing supervision of private-sector companies.

We shall strongly stand against certain things. For instance, companies that have installed electronic eyes on their entrances. We really do not know the philosophy behind the installation of electronic eyes. If no offense is to be committed in such places, like a public place, what is the purpose of it? It is a public place, where everybody can enter whether to buy or sell, or for trading or services. The premises of a company are a public place. Why should an electronic eye be installed? The Directorate of Public Places is duty-bound to confront strongly this issue. All electronic eyes must be collected. Companies must be classified; their competence must be identified. They must be controlled.

We are also strongly opposed to employment [advertisements] in the newspapers regarding women. Here we must ask the newspapers to cooperate. And a project has been prepared, which the Directorate of Public Places will implement. According to this project, advertisements on employment of women that appear from time to time in the newspapers must come under a system and criteria. [passage omitted] There must be criteria for the companies that want to employ a girl, or woman to work for them. We shall impose supervision here. And there are other guilds whose operations will meet very strong legal confrontation, such as beauty salons and similar places; any such place found guilty will be closed down for at least for six months. [passage omitted] [end recording]

## Nepal & Bhutan

### Independence of Baltic States Recognized

*BK1009150991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1453 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 10 (AFP)—Nepal extended Tuesday official recognition to the three Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, an official announcement on state owned Nepal television said.

The television said Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala made the announcement during the afternoon session of the House of Representatives.

### Leaders Reveal Assets for Disclosure Policy

*BK0809023091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1933 GMT 7 Sep 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 7 (AFP)—The Prime Minister of Nepal has no bank accounts, and owns only a house and 4.5 acres (1.8 hectares) of land in his hometown, it was revealed Saturday.

Facts about the personal wealth of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and his 16 cabinet ministers came to light as a result of a public disclosure policy aimed at checking corruption and ensuring clean government.

It was the first time government leaders in this Himalayan kingdom have ever declared their assets.

Koirala, whose hometown is Biratnagar, in the southeast corner of Nepal, told his ministers last May 29 that they would have to make their personal wealth known to citizens.

The richest member the goverment appeared to be Gopal Man Shrestha, the commerce minister.

He has 675,000 rupees (16,130 dollars) worth of bank deposits and company shares, plus gold and silver worth rupees 542,000 (12,907 dollars), three medium-sized houses and a quarter acre (half hectare) of land.

The total assets of all 16 ministers does not exceed one million dollars, an official source said, adding that many ministers have no bank accounts or significant cash holdings.

The source, in the cabinet secretariat, attributed their relative wealth —in a nation where the average per capita income is 160 dollars a year—to the years they spent fighting for multi-party democracy.

Nepal ended three decades of non-party "panchayat" rule in 1990 after 10 weeks of popular unrest. Elections which followed saw the Nepali Congress Party rise to power.

## Pakistan

### Cabinet Reshuffled, Expanded; Oaths Administered

*BK1009165291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The federal Cabinet has been expanded with the induction of 12 federal ministers and 17 ministers of state. The oath of office was administered by the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at a simple but impressive ceremony at Aiwane Sadr [President's House] in Islamabad tonight. The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, was also present on the occasion.

The new federal ministers and their portfolios are:

Mr. Elahi Bux Sumroo, science and technology; Mr. Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak, interprovincial coordination; Chaudhary Amir Hussain, parliamentary affairs; Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, industries, with additional charge of culture; Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, religious affairs; Mr. Ghulam Dastagir Khan, local government and rural development; Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, defense; Mian Abdul Sattar Lalika, information and broadcasting; Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor, law and justice; Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billour, railways; Shahzada Jam Mohammad (Doshak), water and power; and Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, environment and urban affairs.

The new ministers of state and their portfolios are:

Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, foreign affairs; Shahzada Mohiuddin, tourism; Mr. Abdullah Qazi, political affairs; Raja Nadir Parwez, water and power; Rana Nazir Ahmad Khan, cooperatives and forestry; Mian Mohammad Zaman, manpower and overseas Pakistanis; Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti, communication; Jam Mashooq Ali, production; Mr. Peter John (Kahetra), minority affairs; Mr. Naim Hussain Chatha, parliamentary affairs; Haji Gulsher Khan, zakat [the Tithe]; Chaudhary Assadur Rahman, his portfolio will be announced later; Mr. Shahid Mehdi Nasim, natural resources; Rai Ahmad Nawaz, management services division; Raja Shahid Sayeed Khan, commerce; Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, economic affairs; and Mr. Javed Hashemi, special education and social welfare.

Portfolios of some of the present federal ministers have also been changed.

The names of federal ministers and their portfolios are: Malik Mohammad Naim Khan, commerce; Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi, communication; Syed Fakhr Imam, education; Mr. Yaqub Khan Nasir, state and frontier region; Mr. Sartaj Aziz, finance; Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, food and agriculture; Mr. Tasnim Nawaz Gardezi, health; Syed Tariq Mahmud, housing and work; Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, interior; Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan Abbasi, Kashmir affairs and northern areas; Mr. Ejazul Haq, labor, manpower, and overseas Pakistanis; Rana Chander Singh, narcotics control; Chaudhary Nissar Ali, petroleum and natural resources; Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha, planning and development; Mr. Islam Nabi, production; and Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, defense production.

The prime minister will himself retain the foreign affairs portfolio.

### Desire for Ties With Central Asia Reported

*BK1109055791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] Pakistan expressed the determination to promote close relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with the people of Central Asia. This was stated in an official statement in Islamabad yesterday. The statenment said Pakistan will continue its efforts to further strengthen relations with the Soviet Union in the interest of development and peace in the region. Pakistan is also fully aware of its deep historical, cultural, and religious ties with its Central Asia brethren. The statement said Pakistan will support the liberal decisions of the people of Central Asian and other republics that they themselves have the right to make on their future. Pakistan hopes the existing peaceful atmosphere will be maintained when they have made these decisions.

### Statement Supports Independence

*BK1109004291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1927 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 10 (AFP)—Pakistan, which has recognized the independence of three Baltic states, said Tuesday it would support similar decisions by Central Asian and other Soviet republics.

The republics alone "have the right to determine their destiny," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement, following Monday's reported declaration of independence by Tajikistan.

The statement said several republics, including Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, had decided to be independent while at the same time seeking "arrangements for association with Moscow in a constitutional fashion."

"We rejoice at the peaceful character of this historic transition," said the spokesman, adding that Pakistan "fervently" hopes that the "amicable environment would prevail as the republics decide their future."

He went on to say that Pakistan would support the decisions adopted freely by the peoples of the Central Asian and other republics.

The spokesman, stressing "profound" ties of history, culture and faith with Moslems in Central Asia, said Pakistan would strive to promote close relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with them.

Pakistan has approached Moscow to open a consulate in Uzbekistan and Pakistan International Airlines plans to start an air service to the republic's capital Tashkent.

### Sharif, Akram Zaki Meet Sri Lankan Minister

*BK1109005691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Harold Harath, had a meeting with Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad today. He delivered a letter from President Premadasa inviting him to participate in the sixth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit being held at Colombo from the 7th November.

The prime minister appreciated efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure a successful summit and informed him that he was keenly looking forward to visit Sri Lanka to attend the summit and meet President Premadasa and leaders of other SAARC countries.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister also held formal talks with the secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, on bilateral relations and SAARC summit. Pakistan's prime minister's proposal for making South Asia a nuclear weapon-free zone and other disarmament ideas were also discussed.

### Pact With Saudi Arabia on Afghan Mojahedin Unity

*BK0909015691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Text] Pakistan and Saudi Arabia agreed to work together to promote solidarity among the Afghan mojahedin groups, which is quite essential for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. An accord to this effect was reached at the meeting between the Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki and Saudi King Fahd's special emissary, Dr. Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Turki in Islamabad yesterday.

### PRC Urges Businessmen To Set Up Trade Ties

*BK1009121891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] The leader of the 11-member Chinese delegation, Mr. Gu Yonjiang, has invited Pakistani businessmen to visit China to establish contacts with the Chinese counterparts for boosting economic relations between the two countries. Addressing the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry today, he said that both the sides will continue to cooperate to provide a congenial atmosphere for promoting bilateral economic and social relations. He said China is ready to increase imports from Pakistan to improve balance of payments and they are currently in Pakistan to explore possibilities for importing more Pakistani products.

### 2 Killed, 13 Injured in Hand Grenades Blasts

*BK1009152891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, two persons were killed and 13 injured in hand grenade attacks in Multan early this morning. The injured have been admitted to (Miskir) hospital. This incident occurred when some unidentified persons hurled two hand grenades onto the premises of a Shiite shrine. Police are conducting an investigation.

### Minister Asks Overseas Kashmiris for Help

*BK0909034691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Text] Minister of State for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Chaudhary Amir Hussain said the relentless freedom struggle launched by the Kashmiri people has constrained India to admit that Kashmir is a disputed area. Addressing a function in connection with Defense of Pakistan Day in Islamabad yesterday, he said overseas Kashmiris should intensify their efforts to gain the support of world public opinion in favor of the freedom struggle. He urged human rightists and advocates of democracy to take note of the atrocities committed by the Indian troops on the freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir.

## Sri Lanka

### Rebel MP's File Court Appeal Against Expulsion

*BK1009130491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Sep 91*

[Text] In Sri Lanka eight dissident members of Parliament are appealing to a higher court for revision of the Colombo district court's decision rejecting their application for a stay order against the UNP [United National Party] working committee. The MP's are asking for a declaration that the working committee has no power to take action against them. Mr. Athulathmudali and others who stand expelled by the working committee will also appeal to the Supreme Court against their expulsion within one month.

### LTTE Militants Open Fire; 2 Dead in Stampede

*BK0909114891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Text] Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that a woman and a child were trampled to death on Saturday

[7 September] during a stampede of panic-stricken crowd of about 8,000 Tamil civilians fleeing from north to south after LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists opened fire from the jungles at (Santosaly), a village north of Tandikkulam in Vavuniya. Two subversives were reported killed and two captured by the security forces at (Periyapuliymelle) in Amparai. Official sources said the subversives were loading paddy and were carrying weapons. Three subversives were arrested by the police at Beligalla, Beliwatta.

Meanwhile, during the past 10 days, 12 metric tons of food were transported to the north by the public, official sources told LANKAPUVATH yesterday.

The leader of the gang of LTTE terrorist gunmen who murdered EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] member of parliament of Batticaloa, P.M. Thambimutthu, in Colombo in March last year has been arrested by the army. He is now in police custody. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the gunman whose name has not been disclosed for reasons of security had been identified when driving away in a vehicle which had towed the powerful car bomb that exploded at Kattankudi last Sunday evening, killing 16 people. He was arrested by the army on Wednesday. The leader of the gang of LTTE gunmen which killed former TULF and opposition leader, A. Amirthalingam, is also under arrest.

### Mass Grave of Policemen Discovered in Pasikoda

*BK0909080691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 9 Sep 91*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a mass grave containing the bodies of 35 policemen abducted and killed by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] over a year ago has been discovered in the Eastern Batticaloa District.

According to a military spokesman in Colombo, the villagers of Pasikoda found the grave yesterday and informed the security forces. The LTTE had raided several police stations in Batticaloa and the neighboring Amparai Districts in June last year and took away more than 500 police personnel. The militants were believed to have shot dead most of the hostages.

### Army Chief: Warrant Issued for LTTE Leader

*BK0709150691 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 19 Aug 91 pp 1,5*

[From our correspondent]

[Text] Army Commander Lieutenant General Wanasinghe said that an arrest warrant was issued to capture Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], alive. Giving details, he said Prabhakaran lost in his propaganda campaign after the LTTE's defeat in the battle at the Elephant Pass camp. At present, only very few people are in a position to support him. Prabhakaran will be arrested very soon if he does not consume cyanide. It will be very difficult for him to escape. We know his whereabouts. He will not be allowed to escape. Very soon, the Army will recapture the areas under the control of LTTE and restore law and order there. Government machinery will start functioning there pretty soon.

About 600 Tigers are still active in the Eastern Province. The troops camping in the north will rout them shortly and then go to the north. The areas up to Elephant Pass in the northern province will come under our control within the next two to three months. Thereafter, people can freely move about in these areas.